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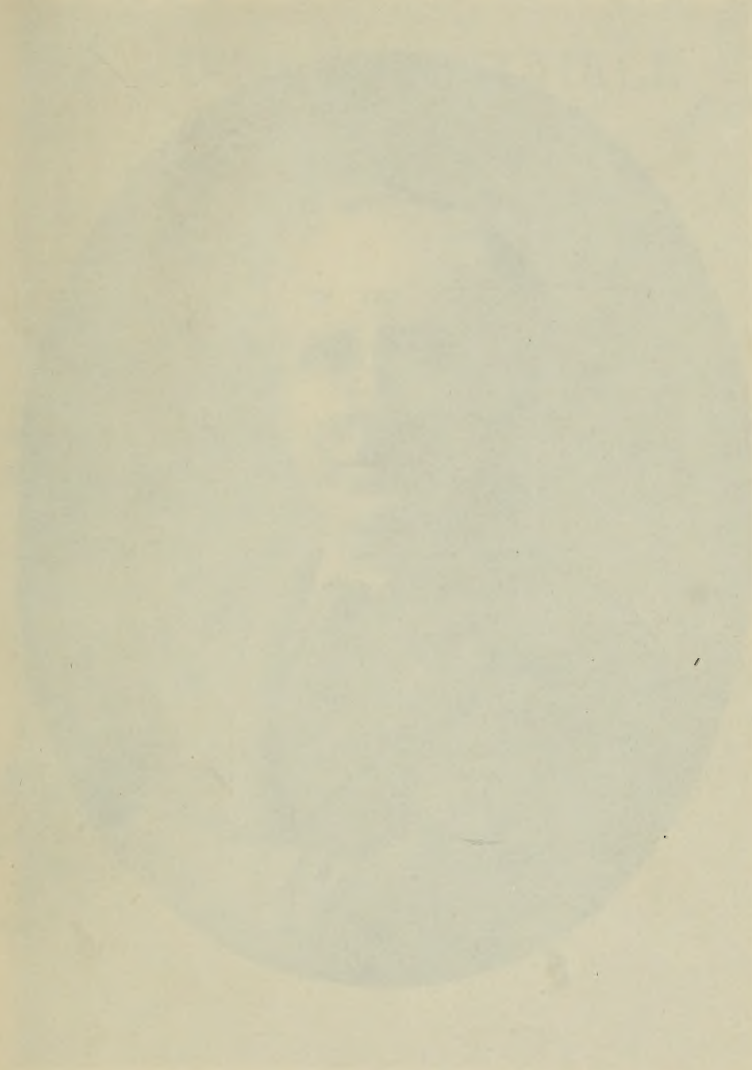
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. . BRADFORD'S . .
FIRST FREEMAN:
SIR HENRY MITCHELL

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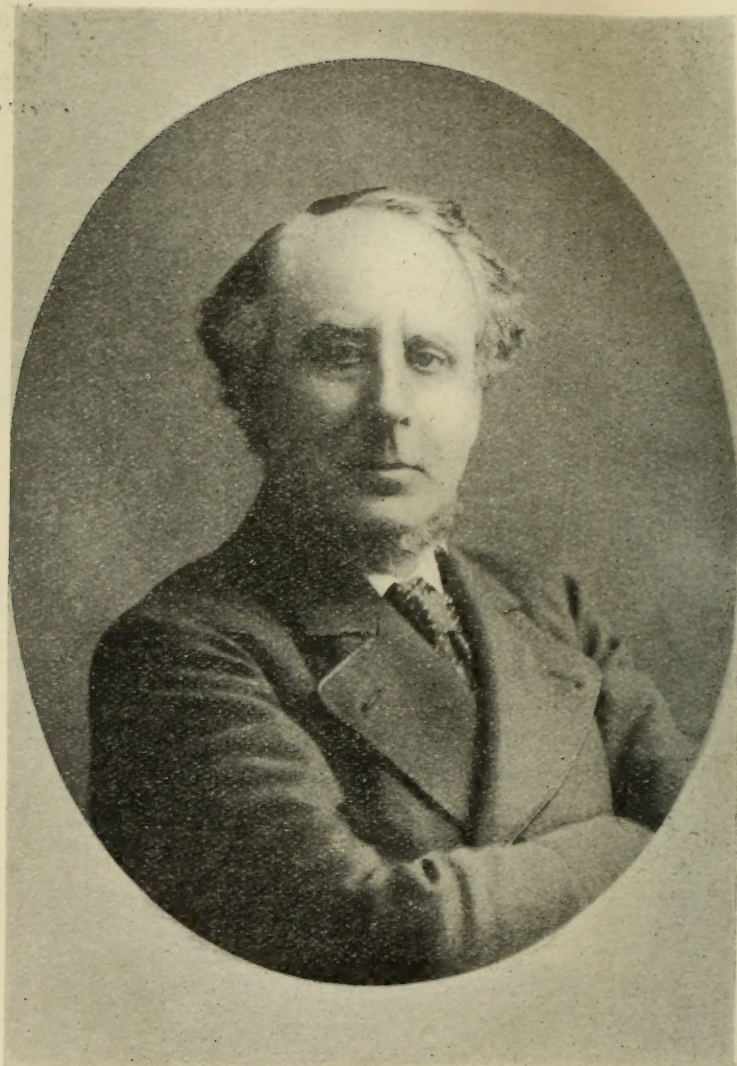
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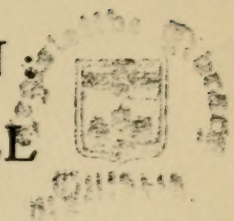


Sir Henry Mitchell

Frontispiece

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BRADFORD'S
FIRST FREEMAN:
SIR HENRY MITCHELL

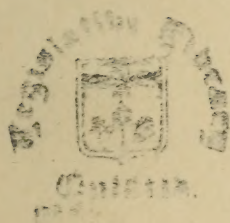


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BY THE

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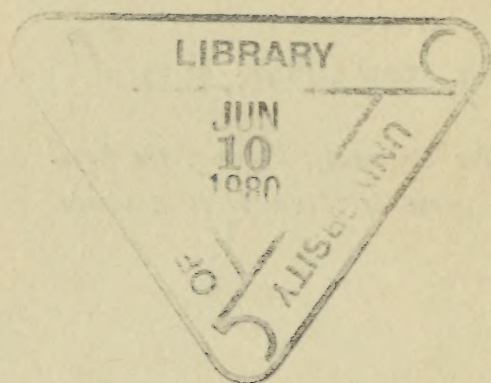


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1913



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EDINBURGH: J. C. THOMSON
AT THE MERCAT PRESS

Dedicated to

HERBERT GILL, Esq.

Hon. Secretary of the Hospital Fund

WHO WORTHILY CARRIES ON THE

BEST BRADFORD TRADITIONS

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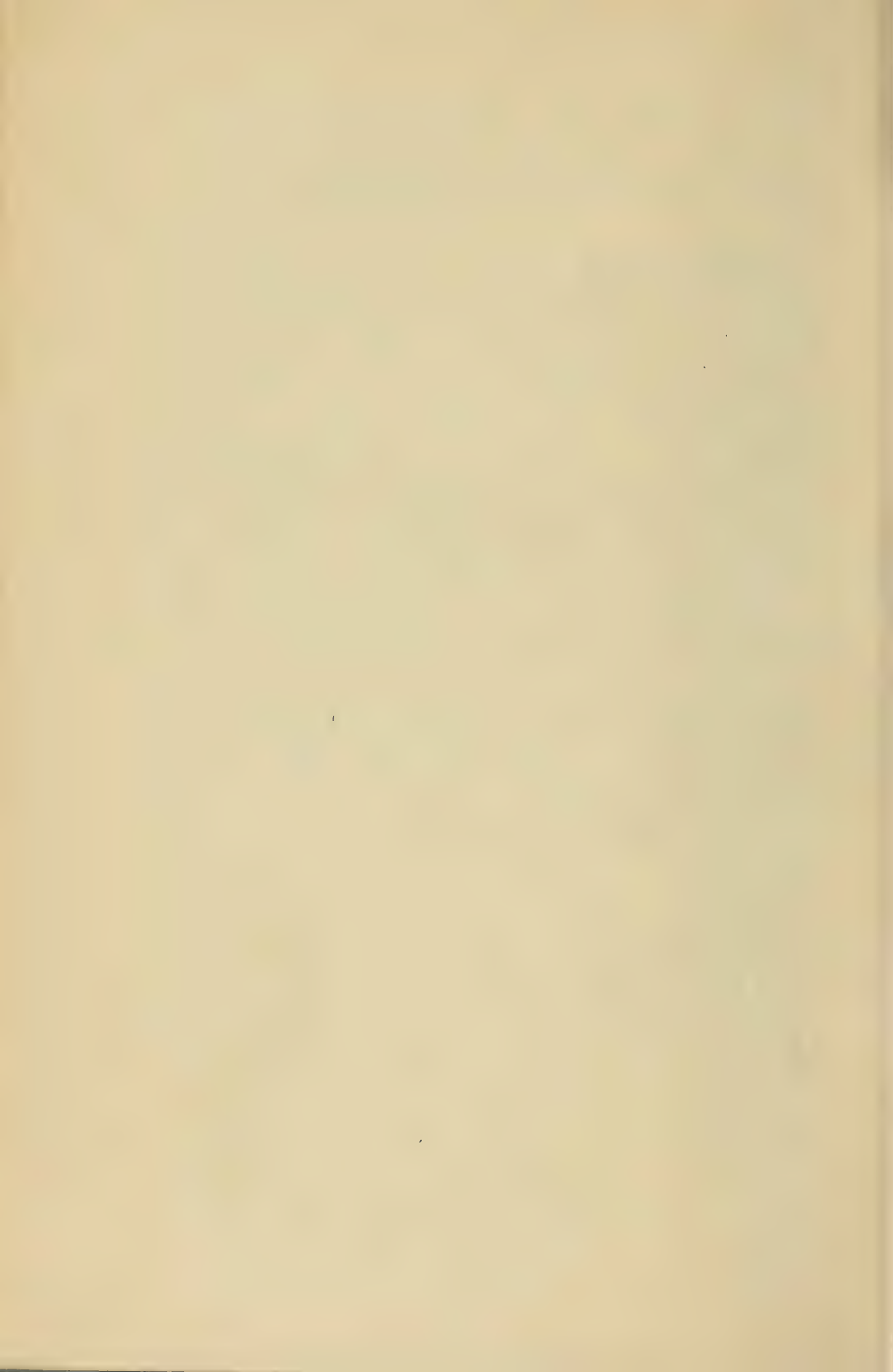
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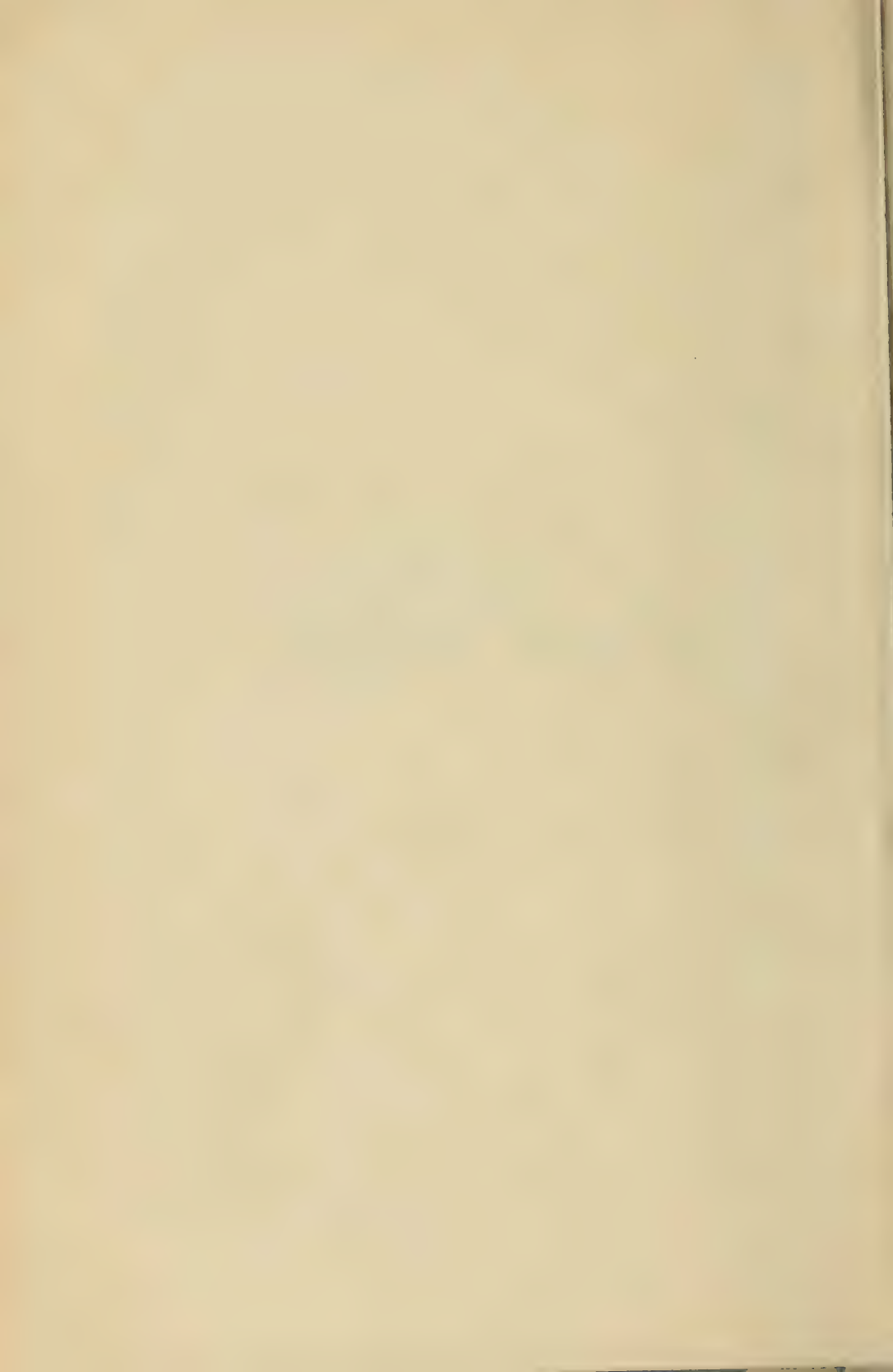
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. . BRADFORD'S . .
FIRST FREEMAN:
SIR HENRY MITCHELL



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

IN the ordinary way, the character and deeds of those who serve their country are sufficiently commemorated by the Press. But Sir Henry Mitchell stood apart, and deserves the more ample chronicle of a book that can be easily taken down from the shelf. He was Bradford's first *Freeman*, the honour coming to him as he lay on his death bed. St Paul thought much of his being a citizen of no mean city, and it was a distinguished honour then, and had been for a long time. Its value soon degenerated, however. The shameless Empress, Messelina, sold it for a substantial sum, and it was soon afterwards sold for little enough in the 'decline and fall' of the Empire, when money counted for more than honour of any kind. Bradford, however, gives no sign of following Rome.

And this was only one of many distinctions won by Sir Henry Mitchell. He was knighted for his services in connection with Technical Education. He was appointed by the Govern-

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ment English Judge for wool and silk fabrics at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, and published a report on these fabrics of the highest value. This was in 1876, and two years later he was Vice-President at the Paris Exhibition of the Jurors selected to adjudicate upon worsted fabrics. Again he published a report with practical suggestions which brought about valuable results. He was elected President of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce in 1878, and was Councillor, Alderman and Mayor of Bradford, the latter in 1874. And in 1882 he became an honorary member of the Cloth Worker's Company of London, an election he highly valued.

I should not have turned aside from other literary work, however, to write my cousin's life, if he had not been a practical and widely known promoter of the kingdom of God. But about this there was never any mistake. He wore the white flower of a blameless life till past the Psalmist's first limit. Canon Maguinness said, when he died, that his character was rich in the graces and virtues which all men admire.

Rev. Dr Dallinger said that his life was a living epistle that must for ever transcend and defy full expression in the tenderest richest fluency of human lips, and added, 'I saw him in all vicissitudes—yes, in all.' His

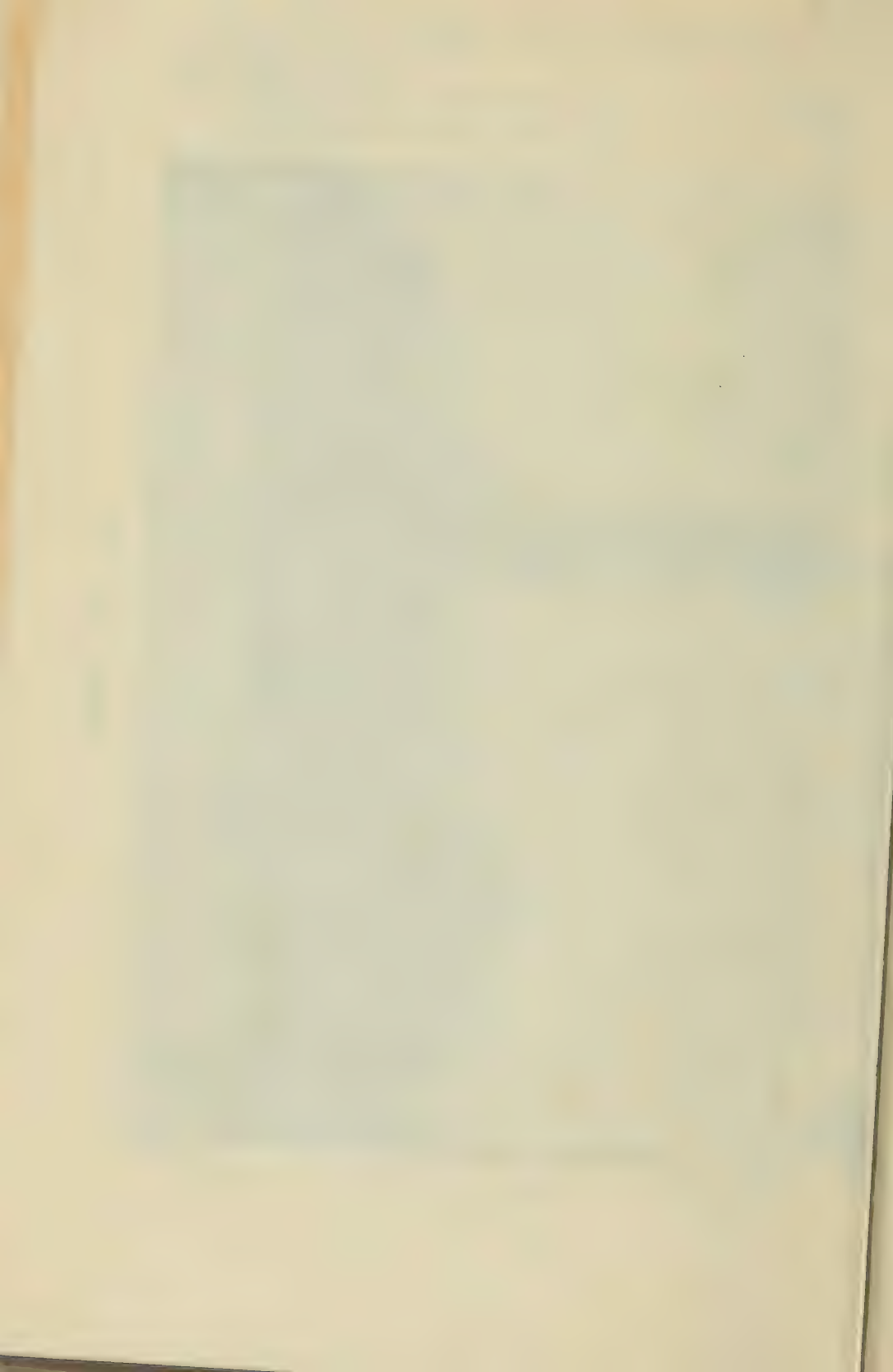


Bradford Town Hall

Photo by Rock Bros., London

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SIR HENRY MITCHELL

benefactions were great, and his wealth never spoilt him.

Carlyle once said that for one man unspoilt by prosperity he could find a hundred who could bear adversity with fortitude. He was constantly giving large sums for religious and philanthropic purposes, and the Chief Magistrate said that wherever a church, chapel, or institution required help, the first words on everyone's lips were, 'We will go to Sir Henry Mitchell.' Not only so, but many poor families were his pensioners, and men of every creed and social grade felt that in him they had a friend.

So let not such a man be comparatively forgotten in the on-rushing of fresh events. 'What shadows we are, and what shadows we pursue!' exclaimed Burke, and in a sense this is true of the worthiest. But only in a sense, and in a deeper one the words of Mrs Hemans are true:—

'Thou hast a charmed cup, O Fame,
A draught that mantles high,
And seems to lift this earthly frame
Above mortality.'

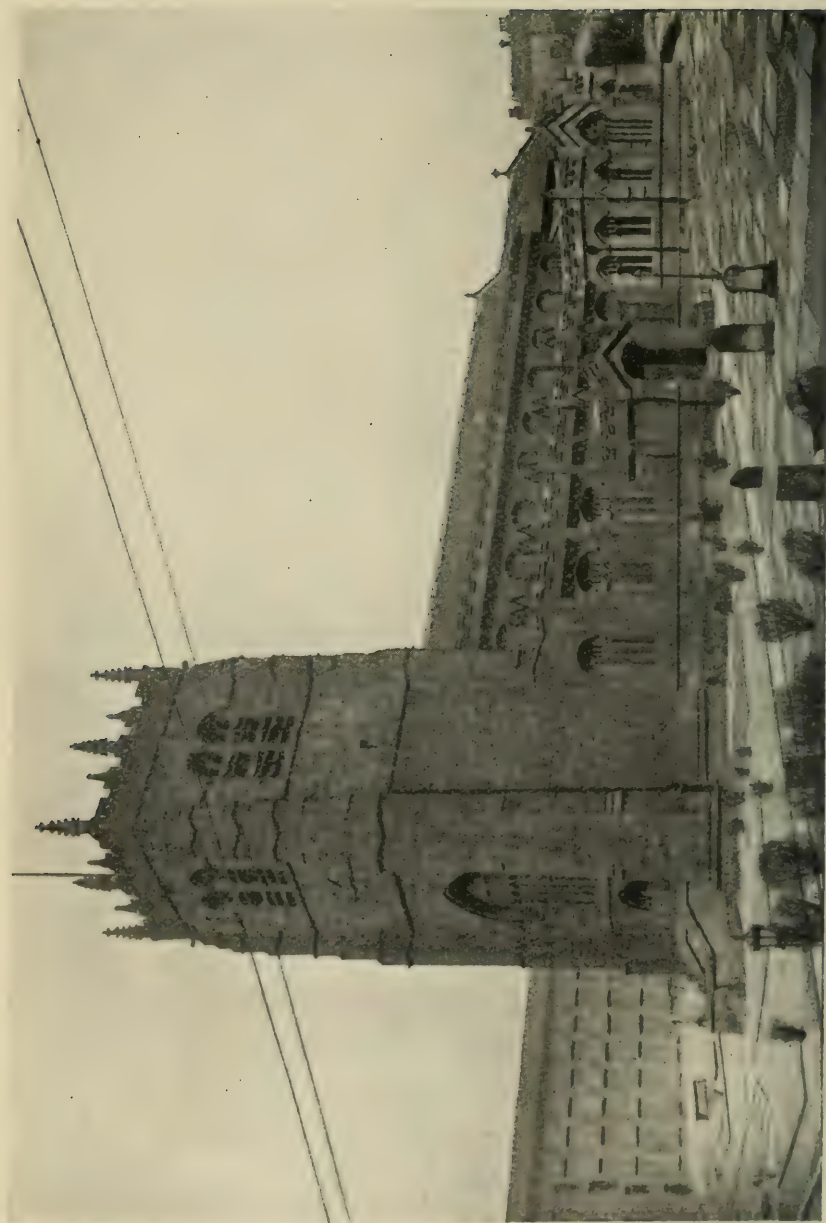
Sir Henry Mitchell was born in 1824 at Esholt just outside Bradford, where his father, Mr Matthew Harper Mitchell, carried on a small manufacturing business.

The family had been settled here for three

generations, as small proprietors, farming their own land, and residing at the old Hall in the Village. Previously they had been tenant farmers at Morton, near Bingley.

After an ordinary education, the son went into his father's own mill at the age of fourteen. Here he began to learn the details of wool sorting, combing, spinning, and weaving. In these early years the business abilities which characterised him throughout his life were already very marked. Esholt is a pleasant village, and when he had become a wealthy man, Sir Henry resided for some time at the Hall there, near the scene of his youthful labours. There were traditions about the Hall which were said to have fired Charlotte Brontë's imagination, and led to the writing of *Jane Eyre*. Never shall I forget an afternoon spent there when a boy, and the eagerness with which we mounted to the rooms at the top of the Hall where Grace Poole was said to have been kept. Of course, in the famous novel, the Hall is said to have been burned down, but I found it very much standing, and a writer of fiction has full liberty to twist traditions about at her own sweet will.

When still young, Sir Henry left Esholt, with its noble avenue, in order to take a situation with Messrs William Fison & Co., now of Greenholme Mills, Burley in Wharfedale,



Parish Church, Bradford

Photo by Rock Bros., London

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SIR HENRY MITCHELL

but then occupying Sharp's Shed, in Manchester Road, Bradford. The founders of this firm were Mr William Fison and the Right Honourable W. E. Forster, and for seven years the best use was made of the excellent opportunities afforded him. Mr Forster was a man of the highest integrity as well as a nominated Premier, and doubtless the influence of such a man upon him in the critical early years would be beyond price. In 1848 he passed on to the Bradford House of Messrs A. & S. Henry & Co., accepting an appointment as buyer. His success in this new sphere was remarkable, and in four years he was made a partner, and began to take a prominent part in the business. He was only twenty-eight, and the business was a large one, but he soon took a position in the general commercial world which became more and more important as the years succeeded. He visited America a number of times, and became widely known on both sides of the water as a most able and influential merchant.

Posts of national honour thus became open to him, and we must now detail a little the service to which we have already referred in connection with the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition. It was in 1876 that he was appointed by the Government English Judge for wool and silk fabrics. The Report which he drew up was

of the greatest value, and was characterised by the Bradford Chamber of Commerce as 'perhaps the best and most searching investigation into the condition of the wool industry of the United States which had ever been presented.'

Two years later came the Paris Exhibition, when he was Vice-President of the Jurors selected to adjudicate on worsted yarns and fabrics. On the question of Technical Education, he then said :

'France long ago recognised the necessity of providing special means of training for such of her citizens as desired to devote themselves to commercial pursuits, and this special technical training has begun to bear good fruit for them. In times not far gone by we were in knowledge of the processes of manufacture, and in inventive ability, far in advance of any country ; but France, Germany, and America, now run us very close, and in some particular matters of manipulation there is no doubt the French surpass us. Of course, our rivals have had the full benefit of English skill and English machinery to start with, and it is to their credit that since then they have tried to improve for themselves upon the advantages thus acquired, and have not been content to be mere imitators. That is what we must aim at also. We must not be content to be imitators either ; we must create for ourselves.

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

The cry for technical education, therefore, is no empty one—it represents a necessity ; and there is nothing more encouraging, I take it, than the support which is being given to the new Technical School, and the desire which is being evinced by persons engaged in the local industries to avail themselves of the advantages thus afforded them.'

He went much farther than this when he was mainly instrumental in sending a number of artisans to the French Exhibition.

They represented various departments of the Bradford trade, and spent some little time at the vast building on the Champ de Mars. Afterwards, their reports on the collections gathered there, and on the Technical Schools which they also inspected at Rheims and elsewhere, were of considerable value and helped to lead the way to the scheme with which Sir Henry's name is permanently associated, and to which we must now turn.

CHAPTER II

TECHNICAL SCHOOL

THE scheme for Technical Education in Bradford may be said to have been inaugurated on 6th March 1878, when Mr. T. R. Ashenhurst, who had been appointed instructor of the technical classes at the Mechanics' Institute, gave his first lecture. This was on weaving, and Sir Henry was then President of the Council of the 'School,' an office to which he had been unanimously elected. Towards the end of the same year, at a meeting called by the Mayor, Sir Henry announced that a suitable site and building to serve as a Technical College could be provided for about £25,000, and promises of help were speedily forthcoming. Sir Henry subscribed £1000 at the outset, and £11,000 in all was promised before the close of the meeting. The Memorial Stone was laid on 16th June 1880, and on the 23rd June 1882, the building was opened by the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward VII. He was accompanied by the Princess, and Sir Henry, as President, stated the objects of the



The Exchange

Photo by Rock Bros., London

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School or College, and afterwards entertained the Prince and Princess at luncheon, in the Great Annexe. This was specially decorated, and there was a large and distinguished company.

From time to time, Sir Henry presented valuable gifts to the College, in which he took the deepest interest to the close of life. It has been estimated that the value of these gifts was not less than £10,000, and the College answered a number of most useful purposes. It was on the ground of his connection with Technical Education that he was offered the honour of Knighthood. The official communication from Lord Salisbury was in the following terms :—

‘I have much pleasure in informing you that Her Majesty has been pleased to confer upon you the honour of Knighthood, in recognition of your services to the cause of Technical Education.’

This was in July 1887, and had nothing to do with political or party work, and Sir Henry felt it to be an honour which deserved celebration amongst his friends. On Saturday, 9th July, an excursion to Saltburn was arranged for his friends, and the workmen and others in the Bradford Branch of Messrs. Henry and Co’s business. A special train conveyed the party out and home, and nothing was left undone which could contribute to the

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

enjoyment of the guests, the outing being long remembered. At the luncheon, a massive solid silver punch bowl which had been subscribed for by both employees and friends, was presented to Sir Henry, and in acknowledging the gift, he let the world have a peep into his life as a business man. He said the most pleasing feature in connection with the honour which had been conferred upon him was that it seemed to have met with universal approval. He went on to speak of the relations which should exist between employer and employed. It was gratifying to know, he said, speaking of Messrs Henry, that after his nearly forty years' connection with the Firm, he retained the confidence and respect of those whom they employed. They lived in a time of very keen competition, when it was sought to buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest market, and he was sorry to find that sometimes there was a spirit of antagonism between employers and their work people. He would be sorry indeed if that ever prevailed amongst them. He had always looked upon those who were in the employ of the Firm as fellow-men having all the feelings and sensibilities of men, and though, of course, discipline had sometimes to be exercised, it was not the discipline that a man exercised over an animal. He hoped that the feeling of mutual

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

respect and confidence would always prevail amongst the members of their Firm and their workpeople. He hoped the time would never come when masters would exact the utmost amount of work for the lowest possible remuneration ; nor on the other hand, when workmen would give the least possible amount of work for the greatest rate of pay. They had all a common interest in promoting the commerce of the Country, and they must work together, respect each other's rights and duties, and endeavour to be just and true.

Reverting to the Testimonial, he said he would always look upon it as a memento of their kindly feeling, and hand it down to his family as an heirloom, with the earnest desire that they would ever act justly towards those with whom they came in contact.

It was a notable work Sir Henry had done, and it richly deserved the highest recognition. The next year, speaking as President of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, Sir Jacob Behrens paid the following graceful compliment to his townsman :—

‘In 1887 a plan for adding commercial to technical education had the full support of the Council. It promises to remove one of the greatest difficulties from the path of our youths intended for commerce. No words can describe the aid Sir Henry Mitchell has given, and

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never wearies of giving, to that Institution of which Bradford is so justly proud, and I am glad that Her Majesty has been pleased to acknowledge services so nobly rendered.'

Certainly the Country owes a great debt to those who build up its gigantic trade. It was only in 1798 that the first worsted mill was erected, and now the population of the city has passed a quarter of a million. But especially when that trade is advanced on such principles as Sir Henry Mitchell's. A serious riot took place here in 1812, and seventeen men were executed. And a strike of its operatives occurred in 1825, continuing ten months, and producing much misery. But, as we shall see later on, as far as the relations of masters and men were concerned, Sir Henry's Firm followed the golden rule, and the most cordial feeling prevailed. Leland said, in Henry VIII's reign, that Bradford was 'a pretty quick market town,' and its growth and handsome development have certainly been pretty quick of late years, and are now.

CHAPTER III

HONOURS THICK AND FAST

SIR HENRY was publicly presented with his portrait, and an illuminated address, on 1st July 1890, in the Lecture Hall of the Technical College. The address said that the gift was intended as an expression of the high appreciation entertained of the services he had rendered to the town and trade of Bradford as Chief Magistrate and President of the Chamber of Commerce. It also emphasised the prominent part he had taken in establishing the Technical College. In acknowledging the Testimonial, Sir Henry said that he highly valued it as coming from many who had been his competitors in business. After nearly half a century of residence in Bradford, during the greater part of which he had occupied a somewhat prominent position in commercial life, it was a source of great pleasure to find that he had the confidence of so large a number of his fellow townsmen.

Such a presentation would not be made in the West Riding of Yorkshire without adequate

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

reason, but Sir Henry had ably served Bradford in many ways. For some time he was closely connected with its Municipal Government. In November 1870, he was elected a Councillor for the South Ward of the Borough, and the year afterwards was raised to the Aldermanic bench. In 1874 he became Mayor, having only been in the Council four years, and he made an excellent Chief Magistrate. He inaugurated many useful movements during his term of office, and won the respect and esteem of the people of the rapidly growing town in a marked degree. During his Mayoralty he attended the reception given to the Prince and Princess of Wales at the opening of the Firth Park at Sheffield, and doubtless was stimulated to promote the laying-out of similar breathing spaces in Bradford. The town is specially rich in these, as the accompanying illustrations show, and they are of the utmost importance in a great factory town.

Sir Henry was also a member of the first School Board elected for Bradford. He disapproved, however, of its financial policy, considering it extravagant, and eventually his membership lapsed, though he devoted himself most earnestly to the cause of Technical and Commercial Education, as we have seen. He was more than once asked to offer himself for a seat in Parliament, but his business

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

occupations prevented him from giving the necessary time. He was Vice-President, however, of the Bradford Conservative Association, though he never took a very active part in politics. Occasionally he was prevailed on to preside at political meetings, and his speeches then were characterised by the greatest toleration of the opinions of those who were opposed to him. Such deliverances were also usually short, but were listened to with great respect, from the character he sustained in the town. He was certainly not one of those

Whose flails of oratory thresh the floor
Which yields them chaff, and dust, and nothing more.

In fact his interests widened as his life lengthened, and though his business was a great one, he never came near the category which included a successful man of whom it was said that he was born a man, and died a grocer.

A very important public duty was discharged by him when he gave lengthy evidence before the Royal Commission which had been appointed to enquire into the depression of trade and industry. This was on Thursday, 28th January 1886, and his answers were full of valuable information. Replying to the Right Hon. the Earl of Iddesleigh, the Chairman of the Commission, he said that the worsted industry was the largest in the Bradford district, the

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

capital invested in it being between thirty and forty millions. The examination lasted the whole day, about three hundred questions being put to Sir Henry, chiefly by the Chairman. He gave his information on his own responsibility, and it filled more than eleven pages of the Blue-book. Sir Jacob Behrens also represented the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, they having decided that they would not, as a body, take the responsibility, but delegate two trusted members of the Chamber to give their individual testimony. At the close of his long examination, Sir Henry said :—

‘The falling off in our exports, as far as worsted and mixed fabrics are concerned, which have always been the staple trade of Bradford and district, is partly due to higher tariffs having been adopted by foreign countries, and partly due to the change of fashion from lustre fabrics, made principally from English wool, mohair, and alpaca, to soft materials produced from Colonial wool. Regarding our trade with France, since the expiration of the Treaty of Commerce, the increased duties have caused a great diminution. It is scarcely half of what it has been, and is likely to be much less before long. The last tariff adopted by Germany being almost prohibitive, our present exports to that country are reduced to about



Darley Street

Photo by Rock Bros., London

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one tenth of what they averaged from 1870 to 1880. And whilst it will be seen that there has been a great decrease in our exports, principally to France and Germany, these countries have likewise become greater competitors for our home and neutral markets. It is most essential that, with regard to training in schools of art and design, greater efforts should be made here. Our artisans ought to have better facilities for attending such schools, in order to gain that proficiency which is absolutely necessary to compete successfully in fancy materials with France and Germany.'

Sir Henry was elected President of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce in 1878, and filled the post during the two following years. He was elected again in 1884, 1888, and 1889, being in commercial policy a Fair-trader.

The country has since been convulsed on these subjects, and it cannot be said that they are decided yet. All we have to do is to chronicle facts, and it is certain that Sir Henry considered reciprocity to be preferable to Free Trade, and on more than one occasion urged without hesitation the adoption of commercial retaliation. An important meeting of the Council of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce was held on 19th December 1890, in compliance with a requisition signed by Sir Henry and others, to consider resolutions with regard to the new

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

tariff then proposed by the French Government. He spoke in unmistakable language then in favour of retaliation, and had the majority of the council with him. He expressed himself as confident that a threat of such retaliation would be sufficient, and said he was thoroughly convinced that no other course would have the desired effect. He was sorry to say it, but they would either have to retaliate, or threaten to do so, if they were to have any reduction whatever in the existing tariffs.

We are not writing these pages, however, to give edge to any controversy, but to show how Sir Henry devoted himself to the duties that lay nearest. He could constantly have said :—

I will not shut me from my kind,
And, lest I stiffen into stone,
I will not eat my heart alone,
Nor feed with sighs a passing wind.

CHAPTER IV

A MODEL FORMATION

AT the end of 1889, the Firm of Messrs A. & S. Henry & Co. was converted into a Limited Company, and Sir Henry on that occasion, presented shares in the Company to all the work people employed in the Bradford Warehouse. When this change was made, the first object was to meet family arrangements, but this is often done without any further consideration. Instead of this, an interest in the business was given to as many as possible of those who were working for its success. Only one advertisement appeared in the newspapers announcing the conversion of the Company, and only about £1,000,000 was asked for. But between eight and nine millions was at once offered. The first duty, however, was felt to be to the work-people, and every one of them that applied for shares got them. In consequence, more than half of the shareholders were engaged in the Firm's business, and these provided the greater part of the capital. A few months afterwards, Sir Henry was presented in the Technical

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College, with a handsome silver casket, and an address from those he had thus benefitted. One of his last speeches was at a meeting of shareholders, over which he presided, when he reviewed the state of the business, and mentioned that he had just entered upon the fiftieth year of his connection with it. To illustrate the great changes which had taken place during that time, he said that, when he joined the Firm, at least four-fifths of their business was with America, whereas, though the total volume had been undiminished, four-fifths of it was now with other countries.

A little before this, he entered into early reminiscences more fully. This was at a dinner given in Bradford in January, 1893, by the staff of the Goods Department of the Midland Railway Station, at which he was the principal guest. In dealing with the subject of shorter hours of labour, he told how he came to Bradford on a stage coach, when the town was not connected with the rest of the country by railway. For five or six years he strove to be the industrious apprentice, never absent from his work at six o'clock in the morning, and never away from it until about eight o'clock in the evening. He had to open the doors, and no one could gain access till he was there, and had to close them at night. When he left Messrs Fison & Co., the firm of which the Right Hon.



The Technical College, Bradford

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Photo by Rock Bros., London

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W. E. Forster was a member, the warehouse of Messrs A. & S. Henry, which he then entered, was on the site now occupied by the Midland Railway Station. In those days all goods were sent by waggon, and he was often engaged until midnight in getting merchandise off in order to catch the steamer three days later, at Liverpool. He said the drivers of these waggons were to be sympathised with. Sometimes they fell asleep, and once he found it impossible to waken a man who should have been ready to start, by ordinary means. So he got a pail of water, and dipped his head into it, and 'I have no doubt,' he said, 'it refreshed him very much when he had to start on his long journey from Bradford to Liverpool.' In those days, he had himself to make frequent journeys to Manchester, and as the travelling took ten hours, 'it was a very heavy day's work to go from Bradford to Manchester and back, and transact the necessary business.'

It is men like this that can always do 'one thing more', and this was illustrated in connection with the affairs of the Greenock Harbour Trustees. Sir Henry was President and a Trustee of the Bradford Savings Bank, and they held a number of the Bonds of the Greenock people. Several other Bradford Institutions had money invested in the same way, and the Scotch folks got into difficulties.

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

Sir Henry was not only appointed to act on behalf of the Bank, but for the other claimants also. The administration of the Trust was practically concentrated in his hands, as chairman of a small committee, acting under the authority of the creditors, in 1887 and 1888. He found time to make numerous journeys to Greenock, and brought the concern back to a sound condition, its affairs continuing to be administered with success.

Well might Mr Bernard Cohen say, as he did in the Chamber of Commerce, that there was nothing which would be for the benefit of Bradford that he was not always ready to help. His time was constantly filled up with what was useful and practical. Queen Victoria once said to Archbishop Benson :—‘When I look at the frivolities and littlenesses of the mass of the people, it seems to me they are all a little mad.’ Here and there, however, there is an eminently sane mind, and Sir Henry Mitchell’s was one of them. He recognised the coming power of the democracy. The eminent publicist M. Emile de Laboulaye recently said :—

‘The progress and prosperity of England has come from the character of her people, and the character of her people has been determined by the vitality and power of her religion.’ This is no mean testimony, to come from France, and Sir Henry was one of those who constantly

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

strove that the Church should have increased power with the democracy. And he ever remembered that example is more than precept, and that in his position, he was specially called to 'adorn the doctrine of God in all things.'

So much the thirst of honour fires the blood ;
So many would be great, so few be good.

What a mercy that he had a fairly long life to unfold what was in him, and no special hindrances. 'That a good man be free,' said Carlyle, 'and permitted to unfold himself in works of goodness and nobleness, is surely a blessing to him immense and indispensable, to him and those about him. But that a bad man be free is contrariwise the fatalist curse you could inflict on him.'

Wordsworth had a vision of what has taken place in many a rural region, in his 'Excursion.'

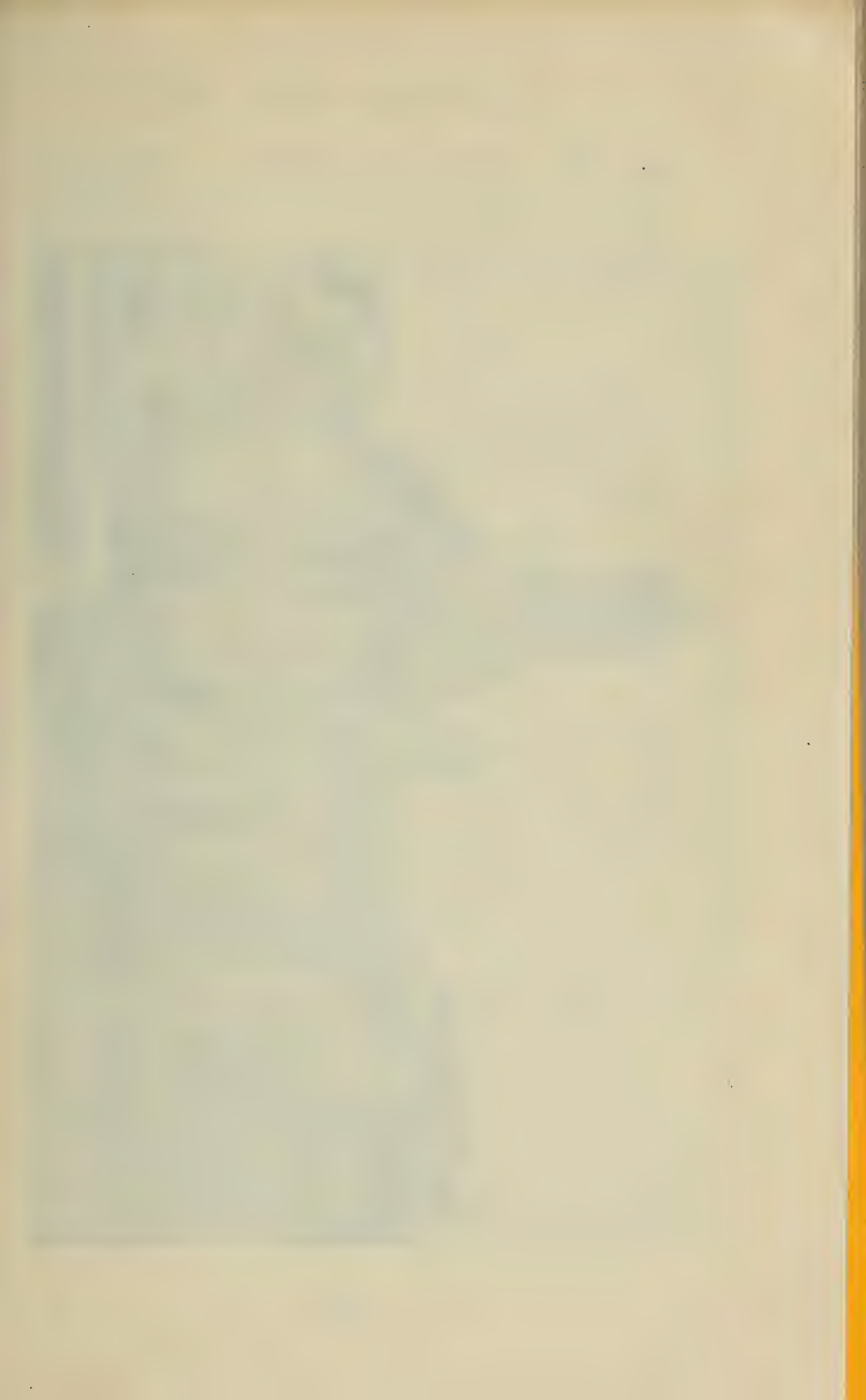
'Then in full many a region once like this,
The assured domain of calm simplicity,
And pensive quiet, an unnatural light,
Prepared for never-resting labour's eyes,
Breaks from a many-windowed fabric huge ;
And, at the appointed hour a bell is heard,
A local summons to unceasing toil.
Disgorged are now the ministers of day,
And, as they issue from the illumined pile,
A fresh band meets them at the crowded door—
And in the courts, and where the rumbling stream,
That turns the multitude of dizzy wheels,
Glares like a troubled spirit in its bed

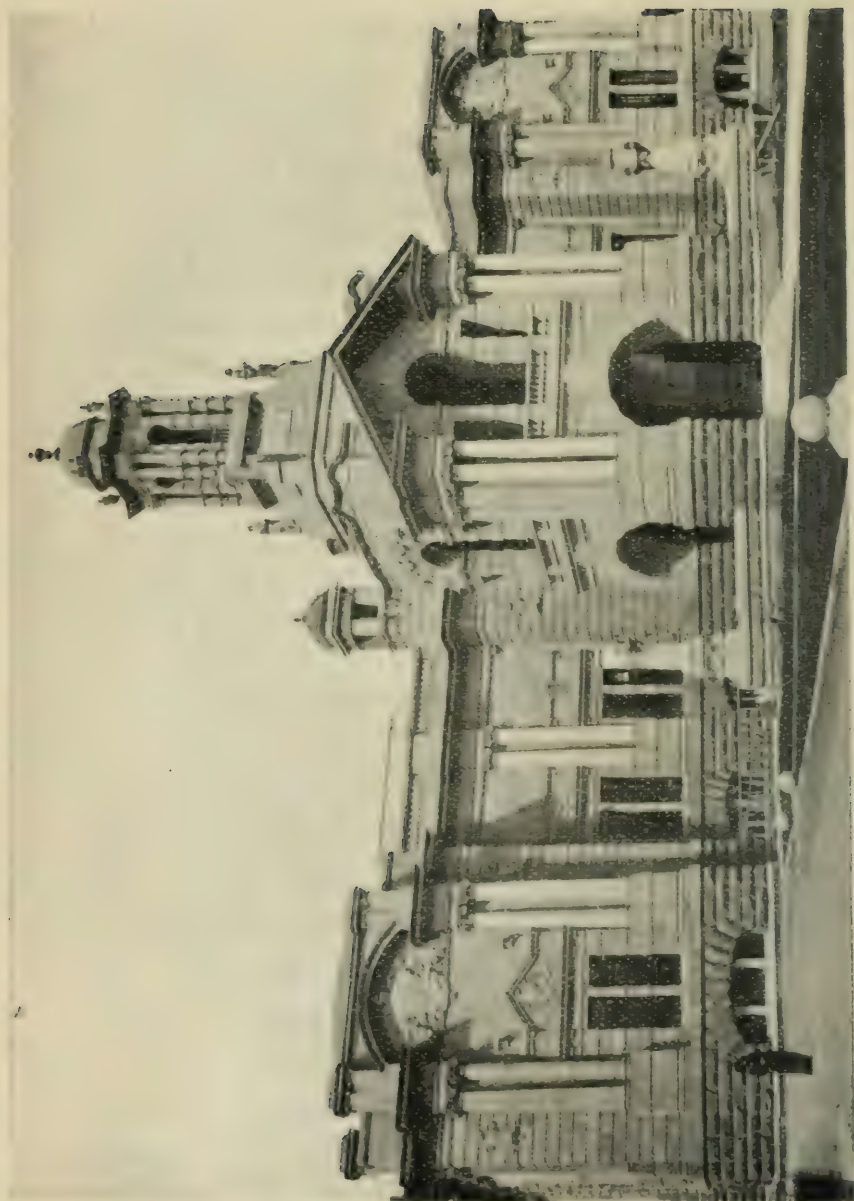
BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

Among the rocks below. Men, maidens, youths,
Mother and little children, boys and girls
Enter, and each the wonted task resumes
Within this temple, where is offered up
To gain, the master idol of the realm,
Perpetual sacrifice. . . . Yet, I exult
Casting reserve away, exult to see
An intellectual mastery exercised,
O'er the blind elements ; a purpose given,
A perseverance fed ; almost a soul
Imparted to brute matter. I rejoice,
Measuring the force of these gigantic powers,
That by the thinking mind have been compelled
To serve the will of feeble-bodied man.
For with the sense of admiration blends,
The animating hope that time may come,
When, strengthened, yet not dazzled, by the might
Of this dominion over nature gained,
Men of all lands shall exercise the same,
In due proportion to their country's need ;
Learning, though late, that all true glory rests,
All praise, all safety, and all happiness
Upon the moral law.'

In England, at all events, the change has been wonderful in many a sweet rural scene, and those who promote this 'moral law' amongst the dense masses of town-toilers make for safety and happiness, and deserve all praise. Surgeon-major Mitchell writes :—

'My father frequently arbitrated in commercial disputes and in more than one large Strike. The great lesson and object of his business life was, I think, his endeavour to promote the mutual interests of employer and





Cartwright Memorial Hall, Manningham Park

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

employed, as having the same and not opposite interests ; and his desire that employers should freely discuss their interests with their work people, and trust them as much as possible.'

CHAPTER V

RELIGIOUS LIFE

SIR HENRY was a prominent Wesleyan Methodist, though his early religious training had been Anglican. Soon after he came to Bradford he connected himself with Kirkgate Chapel, the oldest in the town, and came thus early in life under the influence of that Communion, in connection with which he was for a time a class leader, and a member of which he always remained. He frequently said, in his later life, that the Wesleyan Methodists did a great work amongst a large section of the population which was not provided for by any other Church. And though he actively supported Rev. Hugh Price Hughes and others, he constantly maintained that their work was spiritual, and deprecated his Church, as such, taking part in political controversies.

At the Bradford Conference, in 1854, he entertained the late Dr Dixon, and a strong friendship was formed between them, which continued till Dr Dixon's death in 1871. In 1866 the Manningham Circuit was formed, and Sir Henry became one of its first Circuit

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Stewards, being the colleague of Mr Miles Tillotson, in 1871. He was also Society Steward, in conjunction with Mr S. P. Myers, and took the deepest interest in St John's Wesleyan Church and schools, at Manningham. In the first balance-sheet, February 1882, his name appears for £1000 ; extra subscriptions, in consideration of the amount raised by the bazaar, £567 18s. ; cost of organ presented by Sir Henry, £800 ; making altogether nearly £2,400. In a second list of subscriptions, September, 1888, Sir Henry's name appears for £3,000. Altogether, at different times, he gave towards the Church and schools about £6,000, and also contributed £100 a year to the minister's stipend and choir expenses.

The Rev. E. R. Edwards was his minister at the critical period, and both he and Rev. Joseph Nettleton have responded to my request for fuller particulars as to the generous and even noble doings of this time. Mr Nettleton's letter will be found later on, and touches other matters of the greatest interest, but Mr Edwards's will perhaps find its most fitting place here. He says :—

BOURNEMOUTH

June 1913

MY DEAR MR HEATON,

As far as I can remember, the circumstances of Mr Henry Mitchell's generous

gift to St John's, were as follows : One Sunday in, I think, 1884 or 1885, a violent thunder-shower had, in consequence of the imperfect roof, plentifully besprinkled the children assembled in the old building which had continued to be used for Sunday School purposes after the erection of the present St John's Church. As this was not the first experience of the kind, it was now obvious that it was no longer safe to use the structure as a gathering place for the children. In the course of the following week I called on Mr Henry Mitchell (as he then was) and reported to him what had happened on the previous Sunday. I had in the meantime obtained from our mutual friend Mr Morley, an architect, and one of the leading members of our church at Carlisle Road, Manningham, a rough estimate of the cost of new school premises on a site which, I think, the trustees had reserved for that purpose, at the east end of the church. That estimate was three thousand pounds. As minister in charge at the time I ventured in my interview with him to suggest to Mr Mitchell the pressing need for an immediate move in the direction of new schools. After hearing what I had to say, Mr Mitchell agreed that the time had come to make better provision for our very successful Sunday School, and then, with his well-known generosity towards everything that concerns

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

the Church which he loved very dearly, and delighted to help in every possible way, he made the following offer, that if the Trustees would undertake to raise a sum of £6,000, one half to be spent in providing new schools, and one half to reduce the debt of £5,000 on the Church itself (one of the finest Methodist Churches in the land) he would gladly contribute £3,000 toward that outlay. I need scarcely say, the Trustees at once closed with the offer : the new schools were built in a style harmonising with the beautiful Church, and the burden of the Trustees lightened.

These are the facts as far as my memory, after the lapse of a quarter of a century, serves.

I am, my dear Mr Heaton,

Your very faithfully,

EDWD. R. EDWARDS.

The Rev. W. J. Heaton.

He said to God :—

Thy gifts I take, but dare not close my hand ;

The golden treasure centres not in me,

and needless to say, he did not confine his generousities to his own beautiful Church, though it was very dear to him. In fact, he would have built it entirely at his own expense, on certain conditions, one of which was that there should be no pew rents. He was strongly in favour of their abolition, saying that if there

was one place where the poor and the rich ought to meet together on equal terms, it was the House of God.

But his purse was always ready for any worthy object. He was a large subscriber to Foreign Missions, and gave £500 when a special appeal was made for the Supernumerary Ministers' and Widows' Fund, and £1,000 to the Thanksgiving Fund. Of this latter he was the local Treasurer, and £297,518 was raised for the chief Wesleyan objects, Bradford contributing £4734. In 1881, when the Sunday School was conducted in a wooden building in Heaton Road, where part of Mann-ingham Mill now stands, he presented to each teacher and scholar a copy of the Variorum Bible. He was a Representative to the Wesleyan Conference, and one of the General Treasurers of the Theological Institution Fund.

His loyalty to his own communion was thus thorough and practical, but he never lost his affection for the Church of England, in which he had been brought up. Through his influence, the morning Prayers were read at St John's, as they are in many of the Wesleyan Chapels in London, Manchester, and elsewhere.

He was a firm believer in Bishop Ryle's doctrine, who said, in 1854 :—

‘Between ourselves and Rome there is an immense gulf, but between ourselves and

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Protestant Dissent there is but a thin partition wall. The wisest and most Scriptural course is to work with Nonconformists whenever we can.'

There is no instance of his giving £1,000 to any neighbouring Church of the Establishment, as a leading Wesleyan did once at Southport, but he was on the friendliest terms with Churchmen, and helped them again and again.

He freely gave his influence and support to the great Wesleyan Forward Movement in 1890. He presided in November of that year at a crowded and enthusiastic meeting in St George's Hall, addressed by Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, M.A., and others. About the same time he also showed his practical sympathy with General Booth's efforts to show the way out of 'darkest England', and to improve the conditions of the 'submerged tenth'. But speaking at the opening of a bazaar a little time afterwards, he said that it was quite right to encourage the work of the Salvation Army, and he for one, was far from indifferent to it. There was a much more important class to look after, however, and the Church must not fail in her duty to the artisan, the great industrial class.

His loyalty to Methodism increased with his years. When the Memorial Chapel was opened at Epworth, erected largely through the influ-

ence of Rev. C. Garrett, he presided at the evening meeting. This was on 5th September 1889, and he took occasion to remark on the great influence which Wesleyans had exercised upon the moral and social condition of the population in this and other countries. Having visited America so often, he specially described phases of the work there. But he predicted that Methodism would exert a much greater power in the future. The need of such a thorough personal religion was as great as ever, but they must also throw themselves heartily into the great social movements of the day.

Yes, the time comes on with all of us when the smallest thing done for Christ will be more than all the rest put together. And when that memorable deputation waited upon him in his dying chamber, and presented him with the freedom of the City, he could not but be comforted with the thought that his life had had constant reference to the City which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Plutarch says :—

‘ You may find cities destitute of walls, of gymnasia, of laws, of coins, and of letters, but a people without a God, without prayers, oaths, religious rites, sacrifices—none such was ever seen.’ And those who practically and for a long period devote themselves to the promotion of the highest truth now known in its fullest



The Mechanics Institute

Photo by Rock Bros., London

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revelation confer an eternal benefit and blessing.

We have said that he wore the white flower of a blameless life, and this was more than all his generosity or civic usefulness. From a few years after he took up his residence in Bradford, he was constantly in the public eye right on to the close. Someone has said even of those occupying ordinary positions :—

Ah, do you think the world nor cares,
Nor watches while you toil away ;
And do you fancy your affairs
Are left unnoticed day by day ?

Cease then to do your best, and turn,
Indulging in one foolish deed,
That day the world will let you learn
That it has given careful heed.

But there was no qualification in the testimonies given to Sir Henry Mitchell's worth when he passed away, and which we shall reproduce. And his accessibility was remarkable, for such a busy man. A minister once put up this Text in his study, when he was intruded upon too often and too long—'The Lord shall bless thy going out.' And doubtless the bore was not an unknown quantity at Sir Henry Mitchell's office, but all worthy visitors and worthy objects found a welcome there.

He had not a great deal of time for literature,

and no doubt agreed with Cobden that a single copy of the *Times* was of more value to an Englishman than the whole *History* of Thucydides. But the 'life full Word' found its place, and kept its authority. Often he could say :—

Lord, thou art true, and oh the joy
To turn from other words to Thine,
To dig the gold without alloy
From truth's unfathomable mine.

He certainly knew not only that joy but a great many more, and retained his sprightliness almost to the last. Never shall I forget his bonhomie when dining at Parkfield at the Bradford Conference of 1892, when he entertained the President, Rev. Dr Rigg. Rochefoucault said once that excessive gravity was a mystery of the body invented to cover the defects of the mind. It did not much afflict Sir Henry, and his unselfishness helped to make him buoyant and cheery. Mr Hazlehurst, of Runcorn, had ninety-four trowels, with which he had laid the stones of new Methodist churches, each one standing for £25 or more, often much more, and if Sir Henry did not quite equal this, he was always ready for every good word and work.

The Rev. Joseph Nettleton, the widely-known missionary, and more recently Chairman of the Kent Wesleyan Synod, was Sir Henry's superintendent minister at the critical time

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when St John's was lifted out of financial difficulty, and he writes :—

‘I count it one of the honours of my ministry to have been associated in religious and philanthropic work with the late Sir Henry Mitchell. He stood in the front rank of princely merchants in Bradford, and he was a Methodist statesman. He had a wide outlook and a rich experience. He was a good judge of character, and was trusted by manufacturers and by working men in Yorkshire. St John's Church, Manningham, was promoted by him with a view of retaining to Methodism the youth of its best families. Attractive accommodation and a musically rendered liturgical service would provide for our cultured young people the highest forms of worship. They could find nothing more attractive elsewhere. On my arrival in Manningham he called upon me, and said “£7,000 will be due to the contractors for St John's Church in a fortnight. We have been waiting for you. It was delightful to hear the Rev. Josiah Pearson in the pulpit, but we could not manage the building scheme with him. If you will take the matter in hand, I will give £3,000, and here is a list of names of gentlemen who are all ready to help.” I replied, “Thanks to God, and thanks to you, Sir Henry. I will soon wait upon these gentlemen and report to you. With such a fine leading they must respond generously.”

‘With the help of my colleague, the Rev. E. R. Edwards, all the money was in hand in due time, and Sir Henry smiled at my doubts and fears, and said, “We know where we are, and are prepared for what we have to do.”

‘He had so won the confidence of the working people in Bradford, that the labour difficulties were left to his arbitration. He had a strong sense of justice, and the golden rule, “whatsoever ye would that men should do to you ; do ye even so to them,” was his guide. Again and again I have met labour deputations at his house. Once it was the Midland engine drivers who were black-listed after a strike, for leaving their engines on the line. He arranged passages to America for them and their families. They were skilled workmen, and soon found employment in the States. He had failed to get the Railway Authorities to restore them to work in this country.

‘He was a strange combination of the conservative and the democrat. In Sunday afternoon addresses to working men, he talked a guarded socialism. He said, you socialise the roads. Every man cannot have his own private track. You socialise the gas. Everyone cannot have his gasometer in his back garden. You socialise the water, and municipal authorities bring it to your houses. A man cannot have a reservoir to himself. You may have co-operative



Mrs Heaton

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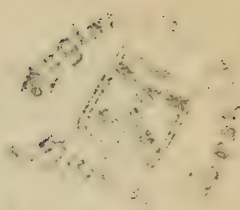
stores, and you may socialise insurance, but you cannot socialise the *Judgment Day*. Every man is responsible for his own character. Every one must give an account of himself to God. Personal responsibility was pressed home with telling effect. He did much for technical education, and sought to give every young man a fair chance in life. He was a great friend of Wesleyan ministers and their families. His home, presided over by Mrs Heaton, had a cosy corner for the leading ministers of the Church when on deputation. It was delightful to hear him talk when in a reminiscent mood of Dr Newton, and Dr Bunting, and Dr Dixon, and Dr Rigg; and also of Peter McKenzie, Thomas Cook, John Hartley, and of John Preston, who figured largely in his *Memoirs of Apperley Bridge, Woodhouse Grove, and Idle*.

‘I was standing by his side one Saturday evening, when he opened a telegram announcing the sudden death of a friend. He said solemnly, “I lunched with him to-day. It will be *suicide*. You do not know what a man will do when he loses his religious *faith*. I have reasoned with him often, but he only reads books on one side.” Sir Henry Mitchell gave the gold of his wisdom and goodness to our Church as well as his guineas. I loved the man, and I honour his memory.’

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

Rev. J. T. L. Maggs, B.A., D.D., also writes :

‘It was during my residence in Bradford that Sir Henry Mitchell died. Previously, after morning service at St John’s, I usually dined with him, and his information, experience, and outlook upon the world in its religious, commercial, and political relations—all were most interesting. He had then largely withdrawn from any very active work, but he retained his membership, contributed liberally, and was most regular at the morning service, though he could rarely attempt the double attendance.’



CHAPTER VI

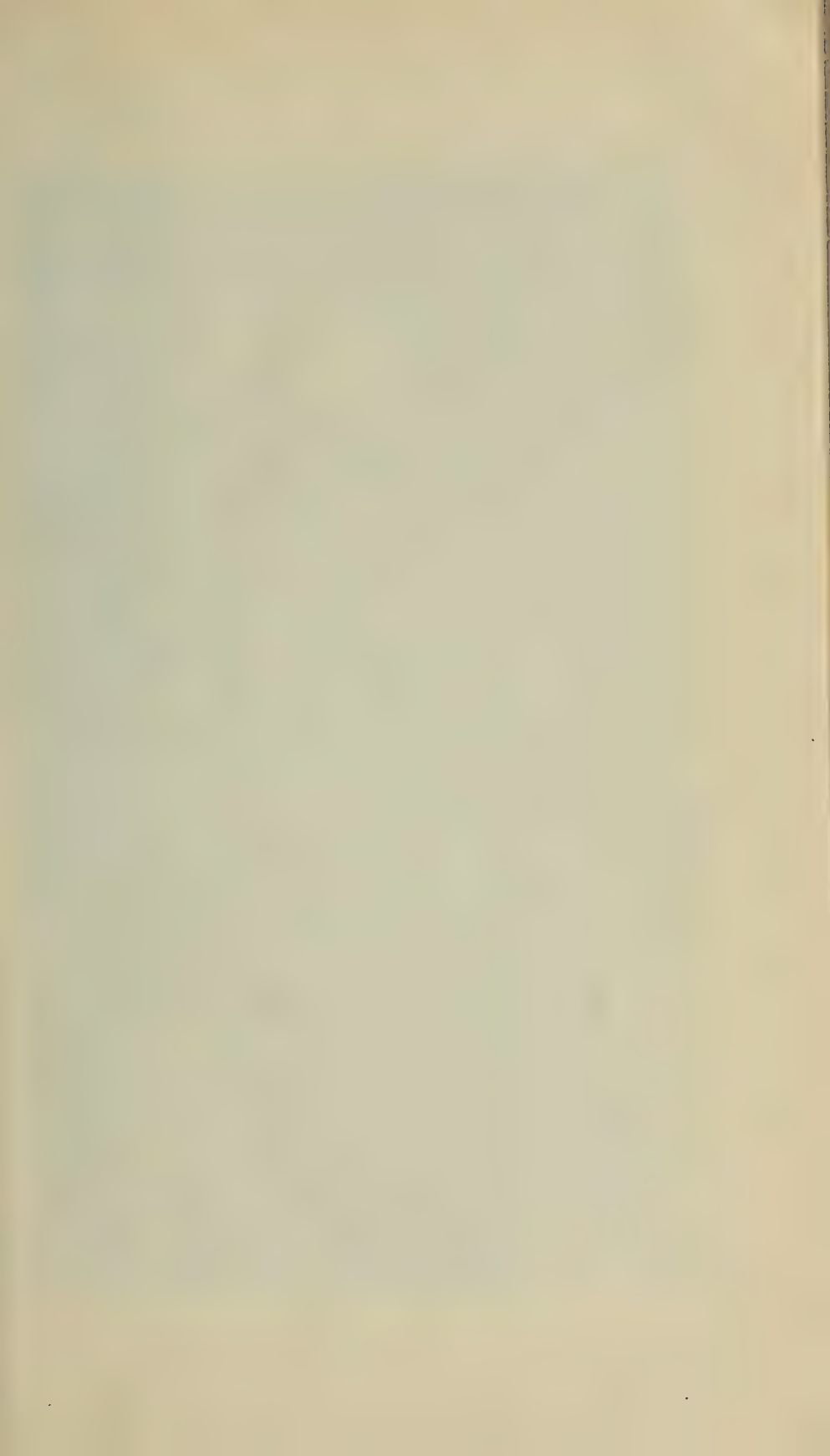
FAMILY LIFE, AND THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY

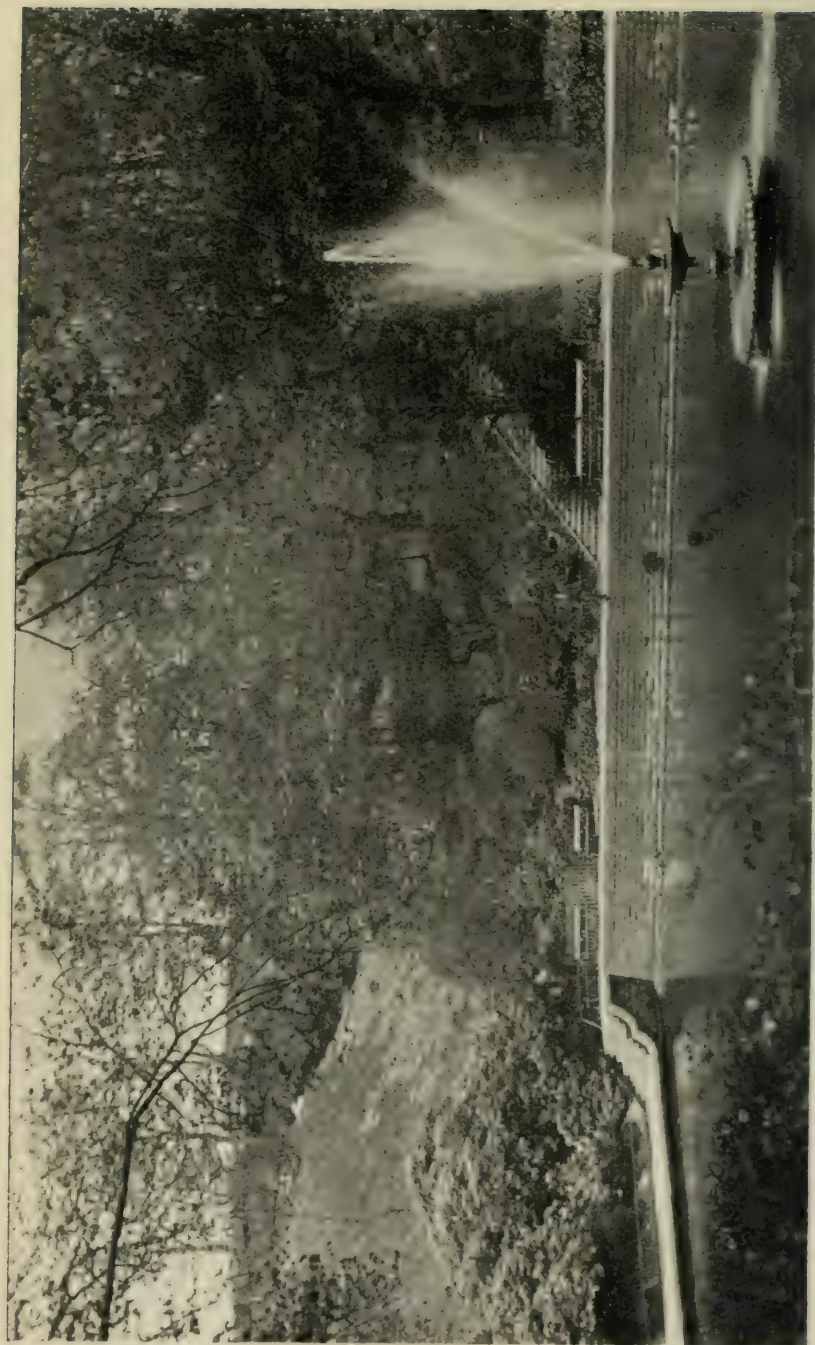
SIR HENRY married the daughter of the Rev. D. W. Gordon, of Earlston, N.B. in 1851. She died in 1886, after suffering for many years from serious mental affliction. My aunt, Mrs Edward Heaton, of Leeds, did her best to supply her place in keeping the house, for many years, and until Sir Henry's death. It was a beautiful and hospitable home at Parkfield, in Manningham, and there were three children of the marriage, Gordon, Henry, and Samuel. The eldest son, Gordon, devoted himself to commercial pursuits, like his father. Owing to weakness of chest, however, he found it necessary to seek a milder climate, and established himself in business at Capetown, South Africa. No doubt his life was thus lengthened, but he ultimately succumbed to the disease which had so long threatened him, dying of consumption at Cannes. The eldest surviving son is Surgeon-Major Henry Mitchell, who has served in the

Army for thirteen years, the last nine in the Guards. He was with the Suakim Expedition in 1885, and retired from the Service in 1897.

It was in recognition of his eminent services to Bradford that Sir Henry was presented with the honorary freedom of the City, this being the first occasion on which the honour was conferred. The resolution was passed at a special meeting of the Council, and a Deputation proceeded to Parkfield, consisting of the Mayor, (Mr T. Speight), Alderman Willis Wood, Mr David Wade, and the Town Clerk. Sir Henry had been ill for some little time, and the scroll bearing the resolution was received by Surgeon-major Mitchell, and other members of the family. When his room was visited, and he was informed of his formal appointment, he was able to sign the roll of honorary freemen, which is kept among the Corporation records. He then expressed a desire to see his old friends, and greeting them with considerable emotion, added a few words to the reply which had already been given by his son. He said :—

‘My dear friends,—How thankful I am to see you, and how gratifying it is to me to feel that I have lived a useful life, and been able to do what little I could for the benefit of my fellow men. And the possession of gold and silver is less precious to me than to know that





Chillon Dene

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

I have done work which is found worthy of this public appreciation. You are devoting yourselves to the public service. Let me urge you to continue in that good work.'

This was the last of many honours, and was only just in time. Sir Henry had been to Brighton for his health a little before, but the change failed to do him any good, and Dr. Appleyard, his medical attendant, recommended complete rest. Dr. W. H. Allchin, of London, was called in, but for about five weeks Sir Henry was confined to the house. He was 73 years of age, and his life had been fuller than most men's of 'stress and strain.' So on Wednesday, 27 April, 1898, at about twenty minutes past 6 o'clock in the morning, he passed peacefully and painlessly away. When the news of his death became known, the minute bell was tolled at the Town Hall, and flags were hoisted at half-mast. Reference was made to the loss the City had sustained at the various places of public business, in the course of the day, and for the account of these, and much else of value, we are indebted to the columns of the *Bradford Observer*, which gave at the time an able and sympathetic memorial notice.

There was something very beautiful in honours accumulating about him at the last, and the closing scenes were full of peace.

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

Sweet is the scene when virtue dies,
When sinks a righteous soul to rest,
How mildly beam the closing eyes,
How gently heaves the expiring breast.
So fades a summer cloud away,
So sinks the gale when storms are o'er,
So gently shuts the eye of day,
So dies the wave along the shore.
Triumphant smiles the victor brow
Fanned by some angel's golden wing,
Where is, O grave, thy victory now,
And where, insidious death, thy sting ?

The life had been a preparation, spent as it
was in the great Taskmaster's eye, and thus he
passed to the higher one—

The life that shines beyond our broken lamps
The lifeless, timeless bliss.

CHAPTER VII

PUBLIC REFERENCES—THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

AT a meeting of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, at which Mr G. J. J. Hoffman presided, the chairman said they had that morning to deplore the loss of one whom he might fairly describe as in every way Bradford's premier citizen. In mourning the loss, they would feel a certain amount of satisfaction in the fact that Sir Henry Mitchell had lived long enough to receive the distinguished honour which had been conferred upon him last Friday by the Council of this city, and he might say that he was sure every member of the Chamber of Commerce felt that not only that honour, but every other distinction which he had received, had been richly deserved by reason of the good work which Sir Henry had done in the city. On the occasion of the presentation of the freedom of the city to Sir Henry, the Mayor had made a most eloquent speech ; he had referred in terms which were not

exaggerated in any way, to the services which Sir Henry had rendered to the city, both in his public and private capacity. They would all agree with him as to the quality of Sir Henry Mitchell's work. They knew him as a valued adviser upon that Council, but they knew also his great work beyond their own body, and were aware that there was no really good work for which his advice and help were solicited on behalf of which his influence was not exerted. Of course, there were many cases of assistance being privately rendered of which the vast majority of the citizens knew nothing, but they did know of his munificent benefactions to the town at large. He noticed that the motto on Sir Henry's crest was 'Dante Deo reddam'—in giving I shall give back to God.—That was undoubtedly the foundation of the whole of Sir Henry's actions during his public and private life. They had more particularly to deal with their deceased friend's work for the Chamber of Commerce. Although Sir Henry gave almost unremitting attention to his own business, which was one of world-wide importance, he still found time to do a great deal of public work, and particularly to do a great deal in connection with the Chamber of Commerce. He believed that if Sir Henry had worked rather less than he did, his life would have been prolonged ; indeed, he had very good

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reason for saying this. He would not refer to all the details of Sir Henry's work for that Chamber. It would be sufficient for him to remind them that Sir Henry was the oldest member of the Council, and during the years 1878, 1879, 1880, 1884, 1888, and 1889, was the president of the Council. Sir Henry did valuable work also in connection with the different exhibitions that were held in various parts of the world, in which he always had the deepest interest, and to the interests of which he was always ready to devote his abilities and his means. Sir Henry was appointed with Mr Jacob Behrens and Mr G. M. Waud, to represent the worsted industry in this district in 1881, in connection with the negotiations for a commercial treaty with France. Then they would remember that he went to the Philadelphia Exhibition, and afterwards presented the Chamber with a very valuable report. They would remember also that, at considerable personal expense and trouble, Sir Henry succeeded in sending over a number of artisans connected with the various departments of the Bradford trade to France in 1878, so that they might see for themselves what goods could be turned out by foreign nations. One thing that they would always principally remember him for, was that it was mainly due to his exertions that our magnifi-

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

cent Technical College was founded, and that he had taken a principal part in building up and carrying out the work of that institution. He was sure that they and Sir Henry's relatives would always look upon that building as the finest monument of his life-work that could have been erected. He moved the following resolution :—

‘That the Council of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, hereby express their sense of the great loss sustained by the Chamber, and by the city generally, by the death of their esteemed colleague, Sir Henry Mitchell, who was the oldest member of this Council, having been elected in the year 1869, and was President of the Chamber during the six years 1878, 1879, 1880, 1884, 1888, and 1889. During the twenty-nine years that Sir Henry was a member of this Council, he evinced the warmest interest in the work of the Chamber, and did most valuable work in promoting and advancing the commercial interests of Bradford and district. The Council hereby tender to the members of the family, an expression of their deep sympathy with them in their bereavement.’

Mr Bernard Cohen seconded the resolution. He said the life of Sir Henry Mitchell was well known to everybody in Bradford, and he, therefore, need not say many words. He would like to say, however, that that day Bradford had lost one of its best citizens. There was nothing which would be for the benefit of Bradford that Sir Henry Mitchell was not always ready to help, and he believed that nobody ever came to that gentleman for

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

assistance in any matter and failed to get a hearing and some help. Such citizens were very rare, and in mourning a loss which was a great misfortune to Bradford, they might hope that the example which Sir Henry had set would stimulate others to endeavour to do something towards filling up a place which it would be very difficult to fill. He felt sure that there were many of the citizens of Bradford who would be anxious to do their best to follow in Sir Henry's footsteps.

The resolution was carried by the members of the Council rising in their places.

BRADFORD SCHOOL BOARD

At the meeting of the Bradford School Board, the Chairman (Mr. W. Claridge) said that, before proceeding with the ordinary business of the Board, he had a very sorrowful duty to perform, and that was to move :

‘That this Board hereby express their sympathy with the family of Sir Henry Mitchell in their bereavement.’

He was sure that he was expressing the opinion of every man of that Board when he said that they had heard with very deep regret that morning that Sir Henry Mitchell had passed away. Speaking first of all of educational matters, which particularly interested that Board, Sir Henry had taken

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

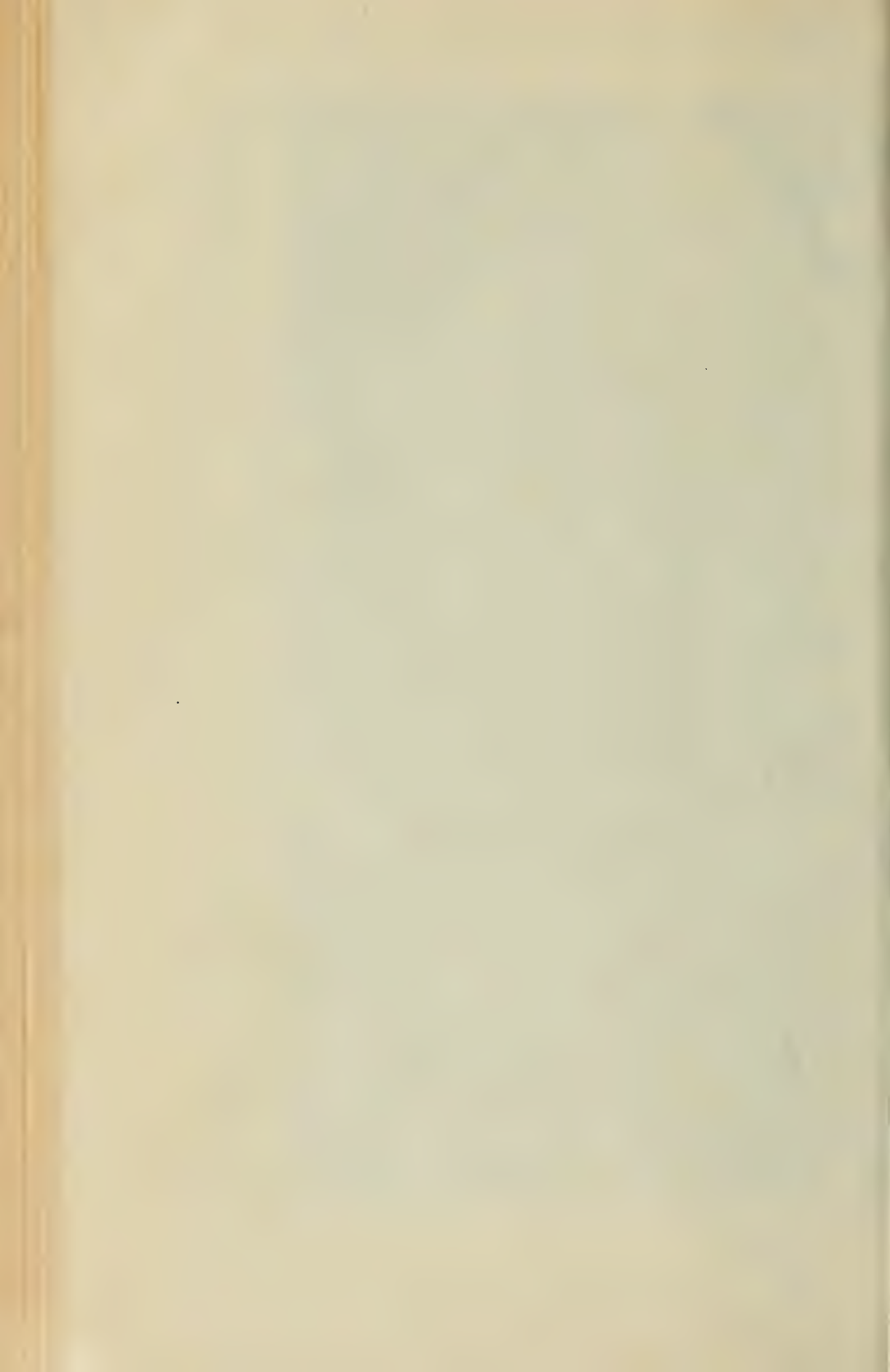
throughout his life a very deep interest in all branches of educational effort. He was a member of the first Bradford School Board in 1870, and he was also one of the Governors of the Bradford Grammar School. His name would be, however, chiefly associated with Bradford educational work by the great interest that he took in the promotion of technical instruction, especially in connection with the founding of the Technical College. His name had been so familiar as to become quite a household word in the city, and no man would be more missed by all classes of society, both amongst the well-to-do and amongst the very poor in the city. The Chairman went on to say that, having known Sir Henry personally, he could speak of his singular zeal in promoting whatever he had in hand. Sir Henry had a very clear perception of the goal at which he was aiming, and he proceeded with unflagging energy towards it. His broad-minded generosity, and his catholicity of view on social and religious questions were known to all, and his indomitable perseverance, whereby he was able to build up one of the greatest businesses in Bradford, showed that he had qualities and abilities of the first order in regard to business. The members of that Board would, he was convinced, all join in the deep regret that Sir Henry Mitchell had passed away, and in that



Bowling Park Bradford

Photo by Rock Bros., London

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SIR HENRY MITCHELL

resolution of sympathy with the bereaved family.

The Rev. Canon Maguinness, in seconding the motion, said that the death of Sir Henry Mitchell had occurred so recently that one scarcely liked to say even what was usual on such occasions, but as that was the only opportunity they would have of expressing their sympathy, it was right that the Chairman should have said what he had done so felicitously, and that the members of the Board should support that very proper resolution. There was a difficulty in appraising a character like that of Sir Henry Mitchell, which was so rich in the graces and virtues which all men admire. Sir Henry was a diligent and successful man of business, but, although he became wealthy, he was not spoilt by his success. He never allowed his character to be marred by that hardness and that churlishness which so often accompanied success, and spoilt the characters of rich men. He was always approachable—easily accessible to everyone—and his open-handed generosity was well known. Indeed, it might be said that Sir Henry Mitchell had stood in the very forefront of the men—and they had been many—who had made their names in Bradford. It was no exaggeration to say that in almost every household in Bradford there would

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

be sorrow at the news that he had passed away.

The resolution was then adopted in silence, the whole of the members of the Board rising to their feet.

CITY POLICE COURT

At the opening of the Bradford City Police Court, the Magistrates present were Mr C. Skidmore (Stipendiary), Alderman W. Willis Wood, Alderman J. Whitley, Mr William Oddy, Mr W. E. Aykroyd, and Mr J. H. Ackroyd.

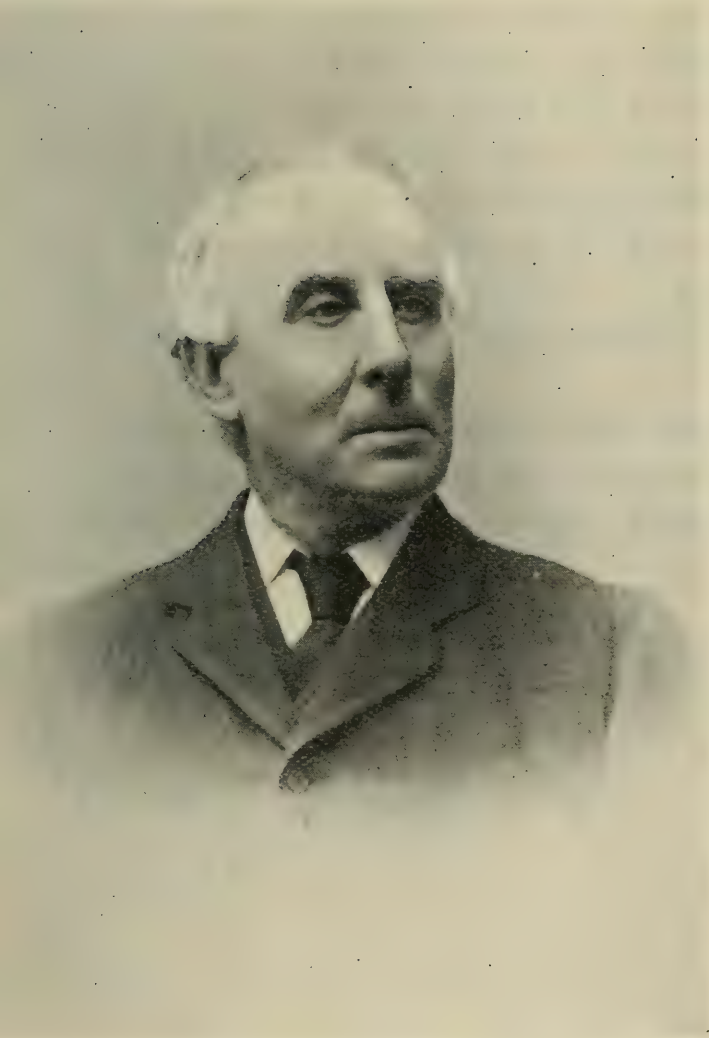
Before commencing the usual business, Mr Skidmore, referring to the death of Sir Henry Mitchell, said that the whole of Bradford was at that moment mourning the loss of its first and only freeman—Sir Henry Mitchell. It was an honour which had been rightly conferred, and he believed was justly esteemed by the late Sir Henry. He was told by those who had been deputed to present the certificate of freemanship that the recipient was greatly affected by the goodwill and kindness of his fellow-citizens, and felt deeply grateful for the high and signal honour conferred upon him. The life of Sir Henry Mitchell had been bound up with the prosperity of Bradford. He was one of Bradford's foremost men in everything

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

he touched, and in everything he undertook. He was a man of clear intellect, great business capacity, and unbounded generosity. Indeed, he (Mr Skidmore) had been told since he came into that building that morning, and he believed that it was no secret, that Sir Henry had given away in this city during his lifetime perhaps more than £100,000. They knew that no person ever went to Sir Henry in vain for money for religious or philanthropic purposes—or, indeed, for anything touching the welfare of the city. If it were an institution that required help, the erection of a church or a chapel, or the restoration of either, the first words on everyone's lips were: 'We will go to Sir Henry Mitchell.' And to Sir Henry Mitchell they went, and never came away disappointed. He was a most open-hearted man, and freely gave of that which he had honestly and abundantly earned. It did not fall to the lot of many cities to have such a generous citizen, and he was sure Sir Henry's loss would be mourned by all. Sir Henry served the city faithfully in many capacities, as Mayor of Bradford and member of the Council, and whenever it came within his power to do good work in the city he did it. Sir Henry had not sat on that Bench within his (the Stipendiary's) recollection, but before the appointment of a Stipendiary Magistrate he

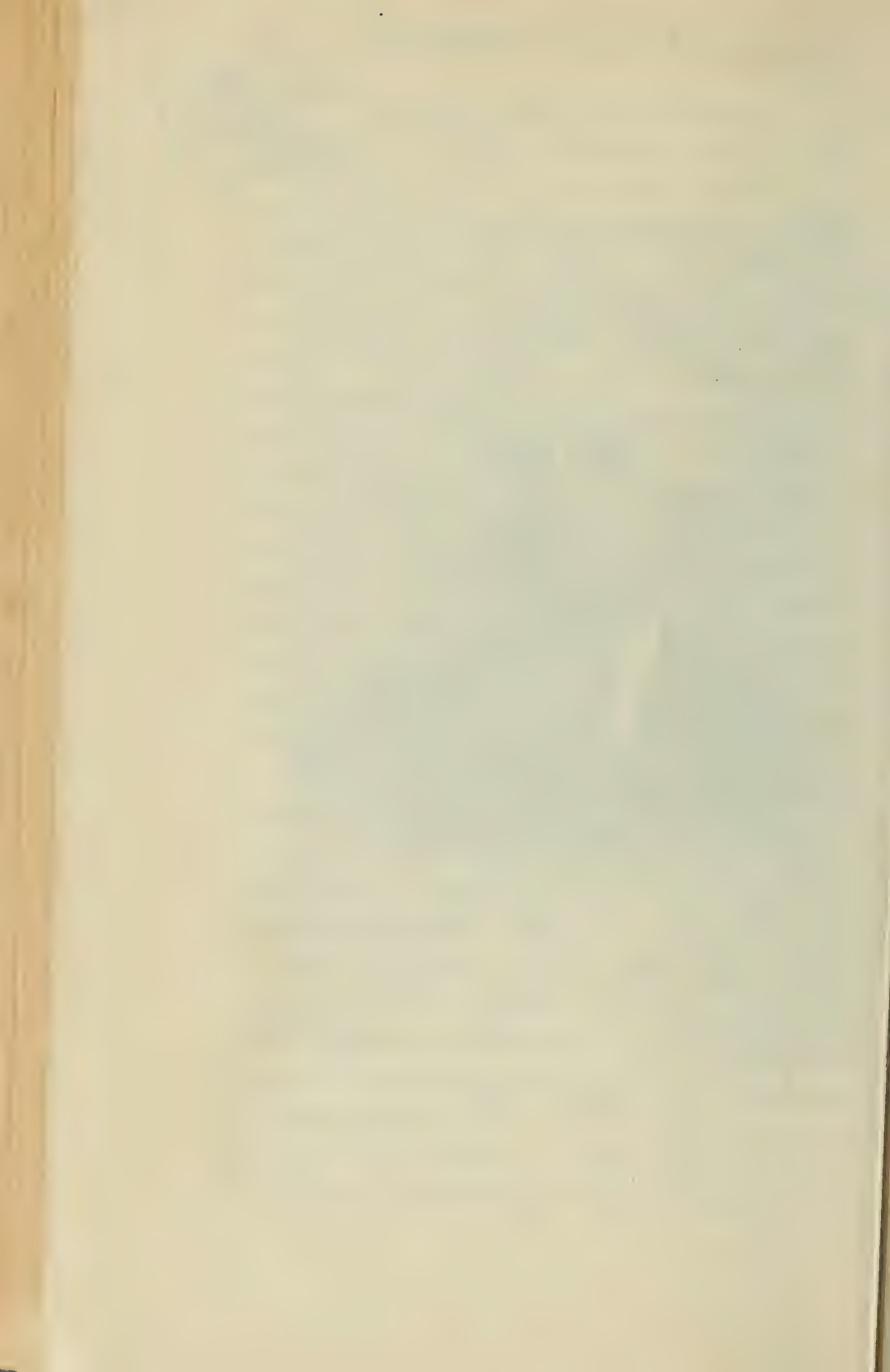
was most assiduous in his attention to the duties of his office. He was a most excellent magistrate ; having an intellect so clear, and a mind so fair, it could not have been otherwise. During the time that he was Mayor, he instituted the Wednesday luncheon, which was now always given by the Mayor for the time being. With Sir Henry the act sprang from the instincts of his warm and generous heart, and the results formed one of the pleasing features of the work of that Bench. Whether Sir Henry's life was viewed as that of a public man or of a private citizen, he remained one of the foremost, if not the foremost man Bradford ever had. The whole city, all institutions, and all classes of people, and especially the magistrates of that court, would deeply regret his death.

Mr Charles L. Atkinson said—On behalf of the solicitors practising in the court—he desired to endorse all that had been said by the Stipendiary Magistrate. It had been his privilege to appear before Sir Henry Mitchell on many occasions, and he could bear witness to his uniform courtesy and fair-mindedness. With regard to his munificence, it was within the speaker's personal knowledge that it exceeded the sum of £100,000. It was not only money given to the charities,—many poor families, Sir Henry's pensioners, would remember him



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with respect and regret. Death had been very busy during the last twelve months among the members of the magistracy, and such a man as Sir Henry Mitchell could ill be spared.

Detective-Superintendent Dobson, on behalf of the police, said that the regret felt by the whole force was most sincere. In Sir Henry they had one of the kindest and most generous of men. On occasions of rejoicing, Sir Henry had never forgotten the police force. It had always been his first thought to provide for others.

These testimonies are valuable, and show very clearly that, however true the couplet in some cases, it was untrue of Sir Henry Mitchell :—

To place and power all public spirit tends ;
In place and power all public spirit ends.

CHAPTER VIII

A MEMORABLE FUNERAL—ADDRESS BY DR DALLINGER

A VERY few men in the Bradford district may have been followed to the grave by larger numbers, but to none has been accorded a more widely representative demonstration of popular regret than marked the funeral of Sir Henry Mitchell, at Bradford, on Saturday 30th April 1898. The long procession included clergy and ministers, politicians of all parties, and representatives of an unusually varied list of public bodies and societies, religious, governing, commercial, philanthropic, provident, educational, political, and social. Although the weather was wet, it did not apparently check the desire of hundreds to pay this last respect. Blinds were drawn along the route taken by the cortege, flags everywhere were hung half-mast, and the Town Hall bell was tolled, but, beyond these and many other more or less conventional signs of general appreciation and mourning, the conspicuous feature of the sad proceedings

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as that, in the many-sided nature of the public demonstration, was fitting evidence of the many-sided interests and benevolence of him who was laid to rest.

It was shortly before eleven o'clock when the funeral started from Park Field, the residence of the late Sir Henry Mitchell, for St John's Wesleyan Church. As relatives only had been desired to meet at the house, the cortege at this stage was not a long one. First came the barge, in which the coffin lay, covered with beautiful wreaths. It was followed by what may best be described as a sort of floral car. This vehicle had been prepared for displaying the bulk of the wreaths, and consisted of a table upon which a suitable framework had been constructed, and draped with purple cloth. Upon this the numerous and splendid wreaths, largely made up of lilies and white flowers, had been carefully arranged, and showed out clearly against the coloured background. They were bound with broad ribbons, many of which contained inscriptions, among which the following were noticeable :—'With expressions of deepest respect from the Council of the Bradford Technical College, as a tribute to the memory of its founder, and first, and only president.' 'In affectionate remembrance, from the masters and students of the Technical College.' 'Independent Order of Oddfellows, M.U.,

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

Bradford District, from 5,000 fellow-members who deeply mourn his loss—"Father, in Thy gracious Keeping, Leave we now thy Servant sleeping." 'Sir Henry Mitchell's Co-Trustees of St John's Wesleyan Church, in loving memory of his long-continued and generous gifts to the Church.' 'Members of Parliament for the city of Bradford and Shipley division.' Some choice wreaths had been sent by the various departments and by the employees of A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd. Following the hearse and the car of wreaths, were carriages containing the principal mourners, namely :—

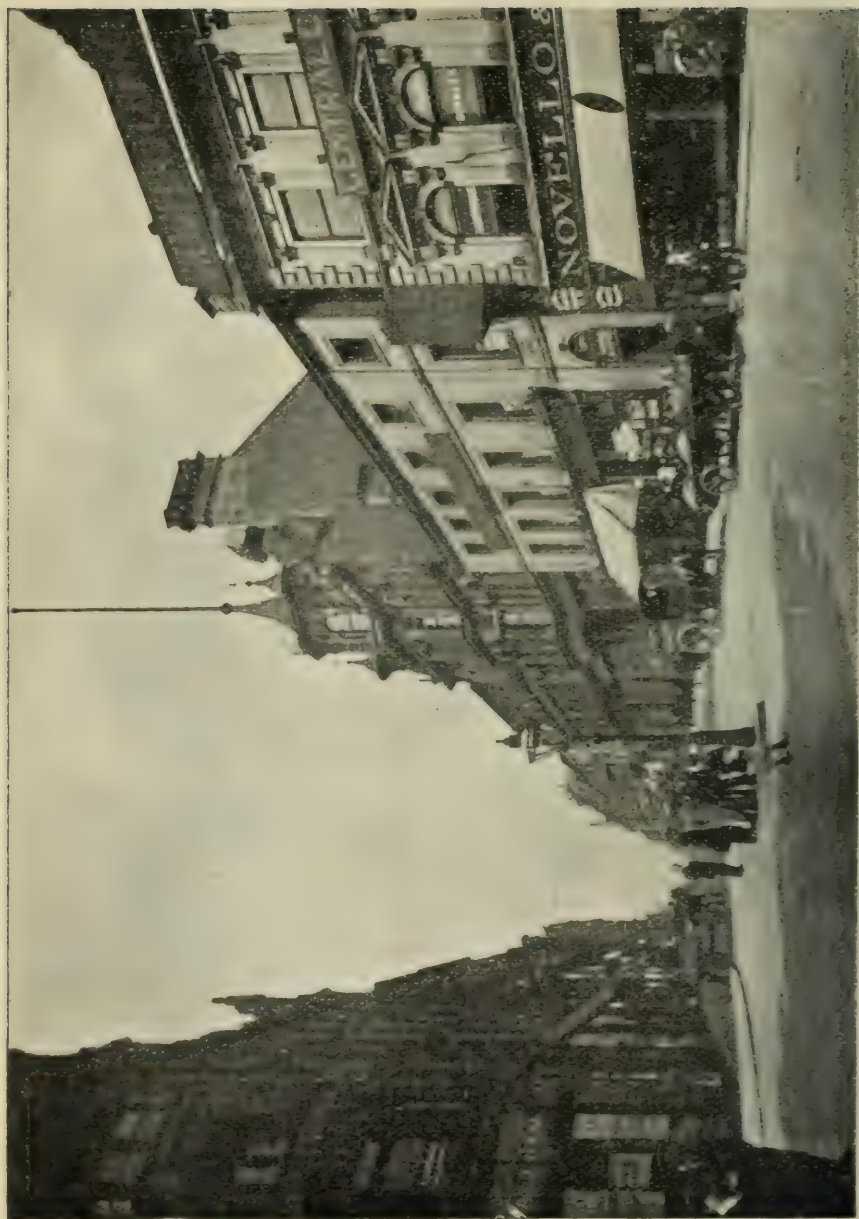
First carriage :—Surgeon-Major Mitchell (son of Sir Henry Mitchell), Mrs Mitchell (daughter-in-law), Miss Mitchell (niece), and Mr W. H. Mitchell (nephew).

Second carriage :—Mr Fred Mitchell, the Rev. Robert A. Mitchell, and Mr Ellis Staffurth.

Third carriage :—Mrs Fred Mitchell, Mrs W. H. Mitchell, and Mrs Staffurth.

The departure of the cortege from Park Field was only witnessed by a small knot of people, but in Manningham Lane, and North Park Road, considerable numbers of spectators had gathered to watch it pass. St John's Church was reached just before half-past eleven.





Westgate

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

Although it had been arranged that the representatives of the public bodies of the city should not join the funeral procession until later, there was a very large congregation at the Church. The pulpit had been draped in black, and Sir Henry Mitchell's pew, which remained vacant during the service, also bore emblems of mourning. The chancel was adorned with beautiful white flowers. The time of the service had been fixed at half past eleven, but before eleven o'clock a number of the staff and employees of A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd., as well as members of the general public, occupied many of the seats, and the remainder were reserved for the chief mourners, personal friends, ministers of religion, and representatives of the Wesleyan Church. The service was rather more elaborate than that customary in Wesleyan Churches, and it proved very impressive. Before the arrival of the cortege, the organist (Mr J. H. Clough) played Beethoven's *Funeral March*, Sullivan's *Yea, though I walk through the Valley*, and Chopin's *Funeral March*. Mendelssohn's *Oh Rest in the Lord*, was played as Rev. Dr Dallinger, reading the service, preceded the coffin and mourners up the aisle. The surplined choir sang Psalm Ninety to Purcell's setting in F Minor, and the hymns, *When our heads are bowed with woe*, and *What are these*

arrayed in white, were sung by the choir and congregation. The Rev. Silvester Whitehead read a portion of 1 Corinthians xv., Dr Dallinger delivered the funeral address, and the Rev. J. T. L. Maggs, B.A., B.D., (resident minister of the Church) offered prayer. As the cortege left the Church, the organist played the Dead March from *Saul*.

Dr Dallinger, in his address, said—In great crises of human thought and emotion silence is an instinct. Words fail ; their function is to give expression adequately to the current stream of life's circumstances. Profound emotion rarely seeks relief in words, perhaps not even in tears. Fain would I be silent now, and offer a last tribute to the friend I loved and honoured in the quietness of great grief. The life whose earthly form and expression lies enshrouded before us was an eloquent one. It was a living epistle that must for ever transcend and defy full expression in the tenderest, richest fluency of human lips. And yet there is a sense in which silence must be broken. Sir Henry Mitchell may not pass from us without such appreciation as a few poor words can give. I would that the lips that uttered them were more eloquent than mine. If the deficiency may be made up by love—a reverent and admiring friendship of nearly a quarter of a century—I may still

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venture on the task to which I am called. The golden thread that has woven itself into my consciousness during my long intimate friendship with Sir Henry Mitchell has been this—the deep reality of his character. It was what he was, infinitely more than what he professed, that always impressed me. I saw him in all vicissitudes—yes, in all. But in them all, whether they exalted or depressed, there was the same rhythm of moral reality ennobling and beautifying his character. He was that rare combination, a man of God and a man of the world—a man charged heavily with the world's affairs, and yet a life made luminous with noble motives, with high and undivided principle, with brightness—that was pure and hallowed in its purposes. He paid tribute without stint to Cæsar—he was a foremost man amongst men, a true citizen, a leader and guide of the people. Concurrently—and here I speak as only friendship can speak—concurrently in the silence of his soul, in the unbroken continuity of his character—I say it without fear—he gave to God that which was God's—Sir Henry Mitchell was a type of modern Christian citizenship. His prominent place in the commercial world was known to you. The full light of your city has been upon him for nearly fifty years. He has impressed you as citizens, religiously,

commercially, and politically, but in each and all he has unostentatiously left you convinced of the transparency of his purposes and his unselfishness. Well, he served you in doing that which he believed to be right. The Chamber of Commerce has felt his powerful influence. The chief magistracy of your city has been in his hands. He led you—how well I remember it—in the inauguration of your invaluable Technical Schools. The very Throne gave him honour for his influences and manly labour. But the pathos of a city's approval rarely touches a point so right and so deep as that in which your Mayor and Corporation, representing every section of Bradford society, waited upon our dying, departed friend, and gave him the parchment roll that made him the first of your city's freemen.

Believe me, that virgin name as freeman upon the roll of your city will have a halo round it, mayhap for centuries. Let us remember, however, that dignified and useful as all this may be, much of it—perhaps all—might have been won by many. But that which exalted it all in Sir Henry Mitchell's case was that it was purified, ennobled, made luminous by great moral principle—transfigured, indeed, by a Christ-like and Godly mind. He was truly and in the highest sense

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of the word a religious man. I speak from the insight derived from the more sacred hours which are indulged in when, in the seclusion of home, friend speaks frankly to friend. But Sir Henry Mitchell's religion was not even a habit, not a well-trained instinct—it was an active and unslumbering principle. He did not find his consolation in theology—I say that frankly—but he found his consolation in unchanging, Christ-like motive. Not simply to do, but to be conscious in all things of having a desire to do what was purest, and best, was his one aim. Men of every creed and every social grade trusted and sought the wise, and, I had almost said, wonderful, counsels of this life, so remarkably embodying the principles which he openly professed. Above all, religion for our now exalted friend was not based on emotion. It was never fired by impulse. He was fully conscious of man's personal responsibility to his moral nature, and to his intellectual nature. Whilst the beliefs that he held were vital, he was yet a frank, broad student of the world of men, and he could see the infinite possibilities that lay in the wide spread of human mind. Therefore, he was, I had almost said, sublimely tolerant. He demanded only that to reach the level of their possibilities all men must be morally and religiously real and honest — be to God

Almighty what they seemed to men around them. Personally his religion was sacred, and in a sense even to deepest friendship he was silent. The language of the life was the only language he relied on—the unconscious fragrance of character was his religious charter amongst his fellow citizens. His identification with this church was a sacred influence, and his unostentatious love of it developed strength to the last. Of his philanthropy and practical charity I may not, I could not, speak. It is known to you all ; you have felt its power. Suffice it to say it was universal : it was limited by no shibboleth, and barred by no bigotry. The great educational agencies of your city are a standing monument of his ample munificence. Every institution benefited by his open hand, and he never forgot—this I know—he never forgot the poor and the struggling who are always with us. His passing from us carries with it, does it not, the sorrow of a city ? He is no more, and yet there is a sense in which to you he becomes more than before. ‘He being dead, yet speaketh.’ Bradford’s first freeman will for generations be a sacred and a stimulating memory, above all to the young men in her midst. He has passed to the light which we have no eyes to see, to the rest which no storms can ever break. His end, his hopes were peace. I can imagine him dying ; I

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knew him so well, and I can imagine that in his dying day, in the stillness of his dying pillow, when none could even hear his voice, when, perhaps, he could hear no voice of dear ones—I can imagine him, in the silence of a painless passage to eternity, feeling this:—

For though from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

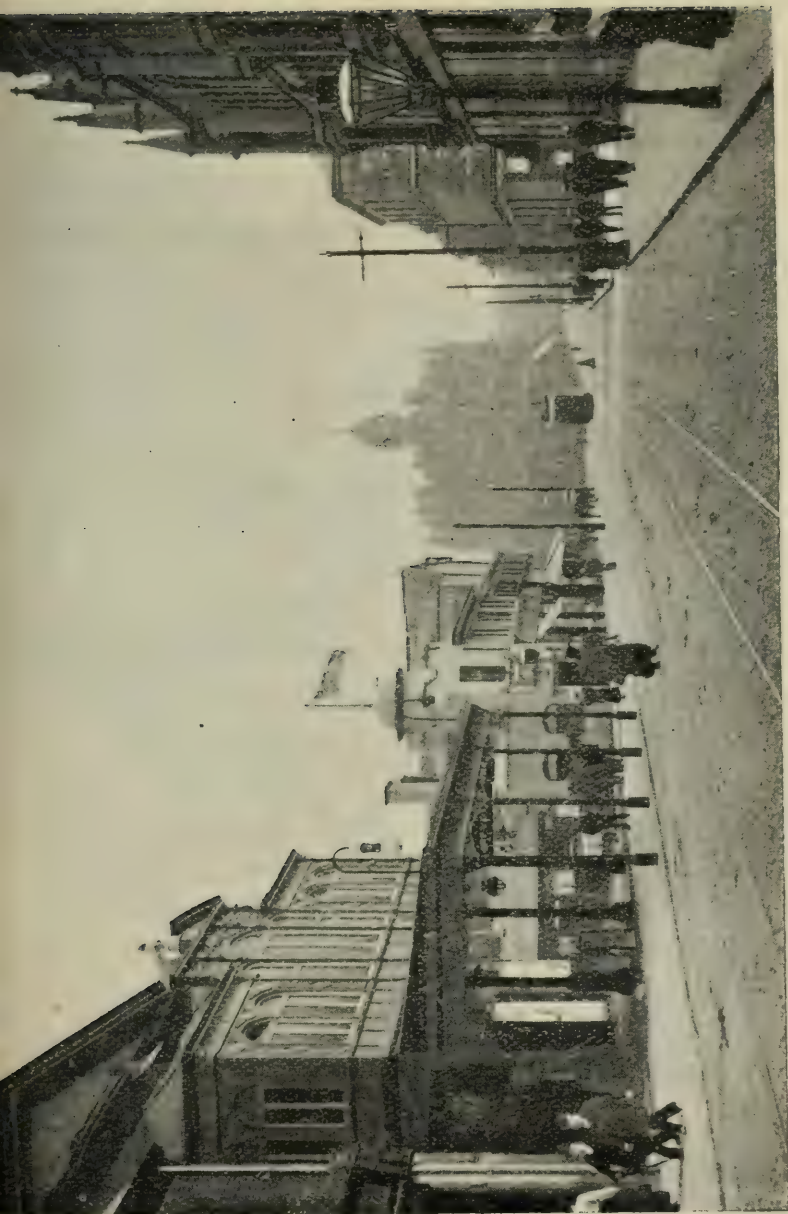
God help us to take from this life passed away, the mere ceremonies of which are before us, a lesson which shall be eternal.

During the service a gathering of onlookers remained standing outside the church, but the steady rain prevented the number from becoming very large, and the police had no difficulty in maintaining order. At the close of the service the funeral procession was re-formed, much lengthened by the addition of a long stream of carriages and a large body of the employees of A. & S. Henry & Co., 300 in number. It was headed by fifty members of the Bradford City Police Force, under Inspector Ackroyd, and four mounted constables of the same force under Sergt. Mattocks. The route taken to the centre of the town, where it had been arranged that the representatives of public bodies should join the procession, was by Park

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

View Road, North Park Road, Manningham Lane, Darley Street, and Tyrral Street. The way was more or less lined with spectators, in spite of the rain. In front of the Town Hall the procession was joined by the representatives of public bodies, who had been marshalled by Acting-Chief Constable Byng, Superintendent Blenkinsop, and other officers at the west end of the building. Chief Officer Scott, of the Fire Brigade, was also present, with a sergeant and twelve firemen, who also joined in the procession. Most of the marshalling arrangements were carried out after one o'clock, and as large numbers of people were leaving places of business at the close of their work for the day, the adjoining streets were filled with great crowds, who remained watching the proceedings until the cortege passed the Town Hall for the cemetery about half-past one o'clock. Amongst the large numbers included in the procession were :—

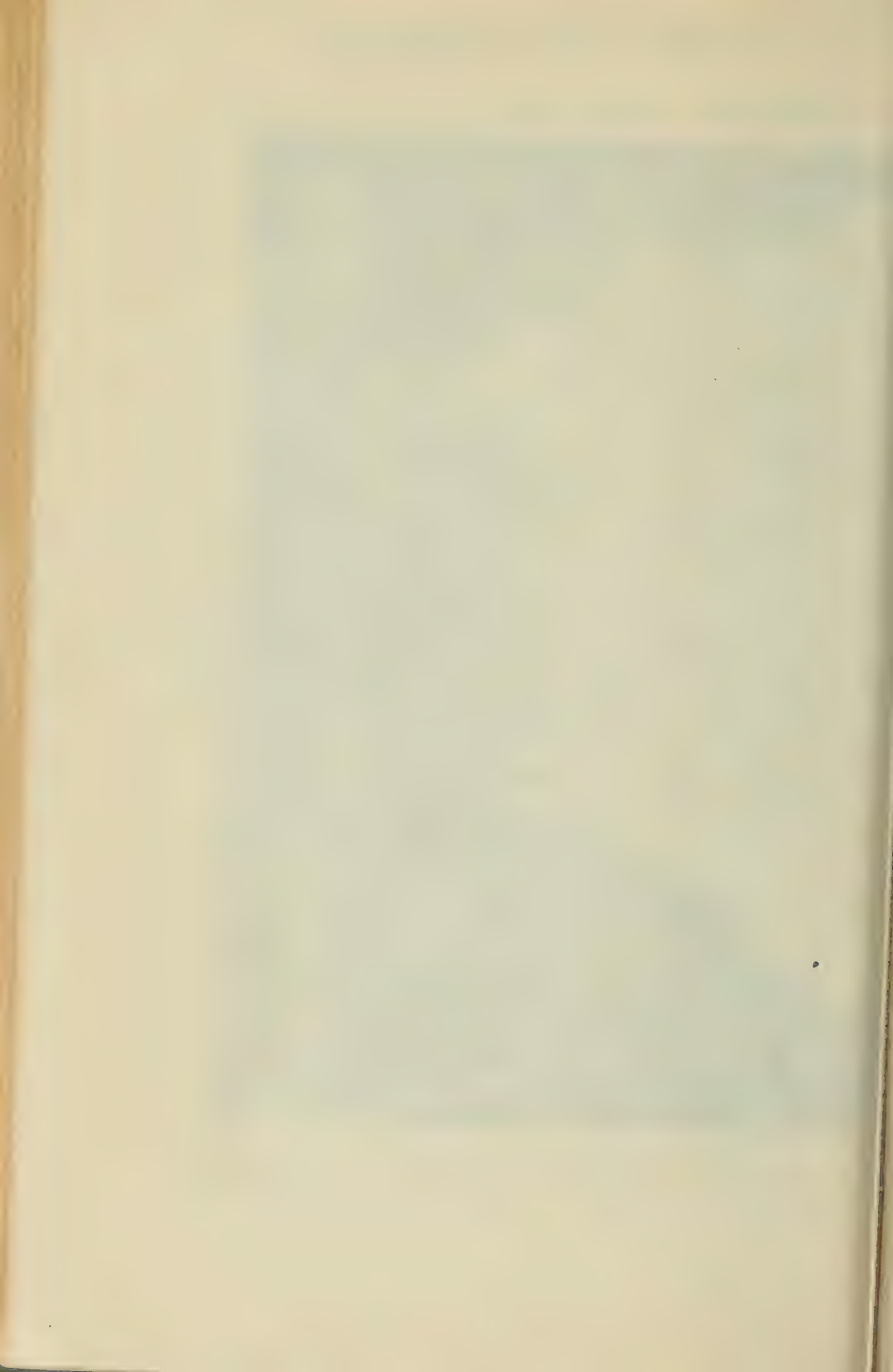
Directors and Staff of A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd.—The Board of Directors was represented by Messrs J. Dawson, A. E. Ruthven, A. B. McDonald, and G. Oliver (Manchester), Mr W. Russell (Belfast), Mr J. Hamilton (Glasgow), and Messrs C. J. Wilson, W. H. Haigh, and T. A. Corry (Bradford), who were accompanied by Mr W. Marshall, of Manchester, the Company's Auditor. The district representatives present were :—Messrs C. J. Tipping,



Manningham Lane

Photo by Rock Bros., London

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W. Brown, G. W. Rhodes, and J. Hastings (London), Mr W. Morton (Cape Town), Messrs J. Kirk and J. Lowden (Leeds), and Mr J. L. Walker (Huddersfield). The heads of departments and other members of the staff present also included Messrs Holmes Clapham, E. S. de Jersey, and T. Longbottom (Continental department), R. Heron (home trade department), James Watson, S. Sharp, M. Mullen, F. A. Crosse (Manchester), W. Illingworth, W. F. Blackett, N. Robinson, W. T. Kellett, J. Hirst, D. I. Sloane, J. Durrance, J. Dewhirst, A. Pullan, T. Dawson, F. Tillotson, G. H. Haigh, W. P. Haigh, J. Clark, J. Child, G. Dean, T. Firth, S. Firth, T. Fortune, W. Ridley, W. Parkinson, E. Stephenson, J. Davy, F. Parratt, C. Clayton, W. Moss, J. Todd, G. Emmott, S. Nicholson, J. Whitaker, T. Astin, F. Martin, H. Bannister, G. Weatherell, W. Blakey, C. Alwyn Staub, H. Tempest, J. Tempest, G. Fairbank, W. Rockliffe, J. Mortimer, B. Walmsley, S. Sagar, Jonas Smith, B. Greenwood, T. Raynor, H. Cliff, C. H. Fall, C. H. Kitson, A. Bennett, F. O. Booth, W. London, T. Bainbridge, D. Jowett, W. Robinson, F. F. Bacon, W. Ridley, T. West, and A. Ross. Altogether some three hundred members of the staff joined the procession, the following walking first, as having the greatest length of service:—Messrs W. T. Kellett, J. Hirst, D. I. Sloan, and J. Durrance.

Ministers and Clergy.—The Vicar of Bradford (The Rev. Dr Robertson), the Rev. Silvester Whitehead, the Rev. Rawdon Briggs, the Rev. J. T. L. Maggs, B.A., D.D., the Rev. J. H. Baily, the Rev.

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

J. E. Perkins, the Rev. W. D. Keith-Steele, the Rev. W. W. Hollings, the Rev. A. Percy Watson, the Rev. W. Stevenson, the Rev. G. C. Mayes, the Rev. William Kendrew, the Rev. W. J. Marris, the Rev. W. Scott Page, the Rev. David Knapp, the Rev. A. C. Perriam, the Rev. Bramwell Brown, the Rev. Isaiah Jones, the Rev. S. King, the Rev. R. Heslam, and the Rev. J. Hanby.

Lay Representatives of the Wesleyan Church.—Wesleyan Methodist Council: Mr C. A. Federer, Mr Oates Ingham, Mr J. Renard, Mr J. Cockcroft, Mr J. B. Barraclough, Mr Jonas Anderson, Mr J. Waterhouse, Mr J. D. Wilson, and Mr John Riley. Trustees of St John's Wesleyan Church: Mr Edmund Lee, Dr Denby, Mr William Hodgson, Mr J. Spencer, Mr George Bolton, and Mr W. Hudson. Circuit Stewards: Mr J. N. Dickons and Mr W. J. Morley. Kirkgate Chapel Trustees: Mr J. Jackson, Mr W. Jackson, Mr G. S. Parkinson, Mr R. Poole, Mr S. Sykes, and Mr J. R. Crabtree. Mr Moses Atkinson (Headingley College), Mr G. H. Isitt, Mr J. B. Childe, Mr T. C. Hope, Mr S. Carter, Mr W. B. Brayshaw, Mr F. D. Clayton, Mr T. Mason, Mr R. Crawford, Mr S. R. Schorfield, Mr Wilcock, Mr Joshua Smith, Mr Joseph Riley, Mr W. Cass, Mr P. Turner, Mr A. W. Brailsford, Mr J. J. Booth, Mr J. Gill, Mr C. Phillips, Mr W. Horner, and Mr R. Booth.

Personal and Commercial Friends.—Messrs Alfred Illingworth, J. L. Wanklyn, M.P., F. C. Foster, William Fison, and Herbert Sharp, the United States Consul (Mr E. S. Day), and the Vice-Consul (Mr

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T. L. Renton), Mr John Hutton, Dr Appleyard, Messrs B. Steinthal, Thomas Lord, A. R. Byles, James Gatecliff, George Averdieck, T. P. Muff, Richard Moore, Von Halle, W. P. Snow (Midland Stationmaster), R. L. Jervis (Midland Co.'s Goods Department), and Henry Bell (E. Bell & Co.), Dr Rabagliati, Messrs R. W. Denison and John Clapham (Butterfield & Co.), W. H. Ibbetson (Armitage & Ibbetson), Alfred Stephenson, Josephus Pepper (White Star Line), Godfrey Spoerry, R. Clough, A. T. Robertshaw, Robert Monies, James A. Refitt (Harrogate), W. Richardson (Rule, Greenlees, & McEwans), John White, Alfred Slee, J. Sugden, J. W. Rushworth, J. Levy, J. Pitts (John Foster & Son), John R. Jeffery (Clerk to Commissioners of Taxes), Charles Garthwaite (Assistant Clerk), Louis Kennish (Firth, Booth & Co.), T. Butterfield (W. Fison & Co.), L. Midgley, A. W. Harrison, H. Armitage (George Armitage, Ltd.), J. Walker, G. Humble, F. Watson, Arthur Mather, W. H. Ingham, and George Walker (Oates Ingham & Co.), John Robinson, Henry Ripley, and G. Douglas (Edward Ripley & Son), Henry Moore, George Alvey, H. C. Crow, W. Denham, E. Deacon, F. W. Grandage, T. Shackleton (Sir T. Salt, Sons, & Co., Ltd.), S. Robertshaw (J. Briggs & Co.), T. Townsend (Shipley), J. Mitchell (Keighley), R. Hodgson, S. Sharp, James Woodrow, R. Moore, Harry Booth, J. Kirk (Leeds), J. Lowden (Leeds), and W. H. Collins; the Rev. Dr Strauss, the Rev. G. W. Kendall, and Messrs George Dawson (Mark Dawson & Son), J. Singleton, W. Glossop, Walter Turner

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

(Halifax), C. H. Hartley, J. Walker, Alexander Atkinson, J. Rhodes and F. Widdop, and Messrs Woodhead and Astin (S. Smith & Co., Ltd.).

City Magistrates.—The Mayor (Mr Thomas Speight), the Stipendiary Magistrate (Mr C. Skidmore), Mr J. R. Armitage, Mr F. R. Pesel, Mr Joseph Hill, Mr D. Wade, Ald. William Moulson, Ald. Thomas Priestley, Ald. J. Hardacre, Mr John Hill, Mr James Wright, Mr J. H. Ackroyd, Mr W. A. Dewhirst, Mr W. E. B. Priestley, Mr J. H. Wade, Ald. W. W. Wood, Mr T. Crosland, Mr E. Dobson, Mr W. H. Townend, Mr Thomas Craig, Mr Jesse Wood, Ald. F. Priestman, Mr M. J. Barry, Mr John Maddocks, Mr S. Shaftoe, Mr W. E. Aykroyd, Mr J. W. Monckman, Mr Samuel Jackson, Mr Harrison Benn, Mr W. Greaves (Clerk to the Magistrates), and Mr T. Gill (Deputy Clerk).

West Riding Magistrates.—Mr Swire Smith, Mr John Sugden, Mr Robert Clough, Dr W. H. Ellis, and Mr Asa Briggs.

Bradford City Council.—Ald. D. Bottomley, Ald. J. Sheldon, and Messrs C. E. Dowson, Jacob Moser, J. H. Stott, R. Johnson, C. Crabtree, T. H. Shaw, J. Hayhurst, W. Knight, P. Smith, S. Smith, G. H. Robinson, M. O'Flynn, J. Arnold, Wooller Jennings, H. S. Wright, C. Greenwood, J. T. Riddiough, and Peel.

Corporation Officials.—The Town Clerk (Mr George McGuire), the Deputy Town Clerk (Mr F. Stevens), the Waterworks Engineer (Mr James Watson, C.E.), the City Surveyor (Mr J. H. Cox), the City Accountant (Mr G. A. Thorpe), the City

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

Collector (Mr J. W. Gill), the Electrical Engineer (Mr A. H. Gibbings), the Markets Superintendent (Mr R. M. Dunwell), the Chief Inspector of Nuisances (Mr James Chambers), the Superintendent of the Street Cleansing Dept. (Mr J. Thornton), the Inspector of Weights and Measures (Mr J. Leach), and the Smoke Inspector (Mr W. Townend).

Bradford Technical College.—Mr H. J. Heighton, Mr B. Barraclough, Mr J. H. Neal, and Mr J. H. Backhouse (Governors), Mr J. Nutter (Secretary), Mr A. F. Barker, Mr C. Stephenson, Mr G. F. Charnock, and Mr J. Spencer (Headmasters of Departments); Mr H. B. Knowles, Mr A. Wheatley, Mr W. H. Kay, Mr G. Holden, Mr A. M. Bell, Mr W. H. Wyrill, Mr E. Exley, Mr H. Holmes, Mr E. R. S. Andrews, Mr H. E. Simpson, Mr H. A. Wright, Mr J. A. Sutcliffe, Mr H. West, Mr Dudley West, Mr E. Hewitt, and Mr T. Newsome (Assistant Masters), and sixty students.

Chamber of Commerce.—Messrs H. Sutcliffe (President), Gustav Hoffman (Vice-President), H. A. Foster, D. G. Law, W. G. Stansfield, G. S. Beaumont, V. Edelstein, B. Nathan, W. B. Gordon, John Akam, J. E. Fawcett, J. H. Robinson, A. S. J. Musgrave, Amos Crabtree, William Halstead, W. Watson, and F. Hooper (Secretary).

Bradford School Board.—Mr W. Claridge (Chairman), Mr Alfred Priestman, Mr J. J. Cordingley, Mr J. Cryer, and Mr T. Garbutt (Clerk).

Bradford Board of Guardians.—Mr T. A. Guy (Chairman), Mr F. H. Bentham (Vice-Chairman), Mr D. W. Asman, Mr D. Astley, Mr R. Cockroft,

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

Mr E. Dyson, Mr W. A. Jefferson, Mr T. W. B. Milligan, Mr W. Parker, Mr J. Patchett, Mr J. Hitchin, Mr T. Crowther (Clerk), with Mr W. Hartop and Mr F. B. Lawson (Relieving Officers).

Bradford Conservative Association.—Messrs Joseph Crabtree, John Hawksby, J. T. Windle, G. R. Wright, William Young, A. Bottomley, Ezra Clayton, J. O. Speight, A. G. Marshall, G. C. Burton, J. W. Cliffe, and Henry Hull (Secretary).

Bradford and County Conservative Club.—Captain Moore, Messrs W. H. Ingham, John Hindle, Charles D. Knapton, Henry Leggott, J. Scott, W. H. Newhouse, and Alfred Holmes (Hon. Secretary).

Then followed representatives of a large number of Societies, a complete list of which, with those who represented them, as given in the *Bradford Observer*, will be found in the appendix. Yorkshire is perhaps famous for doing honour to those to whom honour is due, but we have endeavoured to make a continuous and pleasant narrative, and the intrusion of any further names here seems undesirable. At the same time, this record will be kept, and the names are worth preserving. Bradford was proud of Sir Henry Mitchell, and of the many distinctions he won, which reflected honour on the city, and doubtless the descendants of those who gathered to do him honour on this memorable day will also like to preserve a complete account of those who were present.

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From the Town Hall the cortege proceeded to Undercliffe Cemetery by way of Leeds Road, (past the warehouse of A. & S. Henry & Co., Ltd.), East Parade, and Otley Road. When the Cemetery was reached, rain was falling heavily, and a strong wind was blowing, but a considerable crowd had nevertheless gathered to witness the interment. The grave had been prepared in a position close to the Anglican Chapel, in fact, just beyond the pathway which passes it on the side nearest to the city. The police kept a wide space clear for the mourners, so that there was no inconvenient crowding. The proceedings at the grave-side were brief, and the Vicar of Bradford took part in the service, in addition to the ministers who had officiated at St John's Church and Rev. R. A. Mitchell. The coffin was of polished oak, with phosphor-bronze furniture, and the plate bore the simple inscription :—

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

Died April 27th 1898

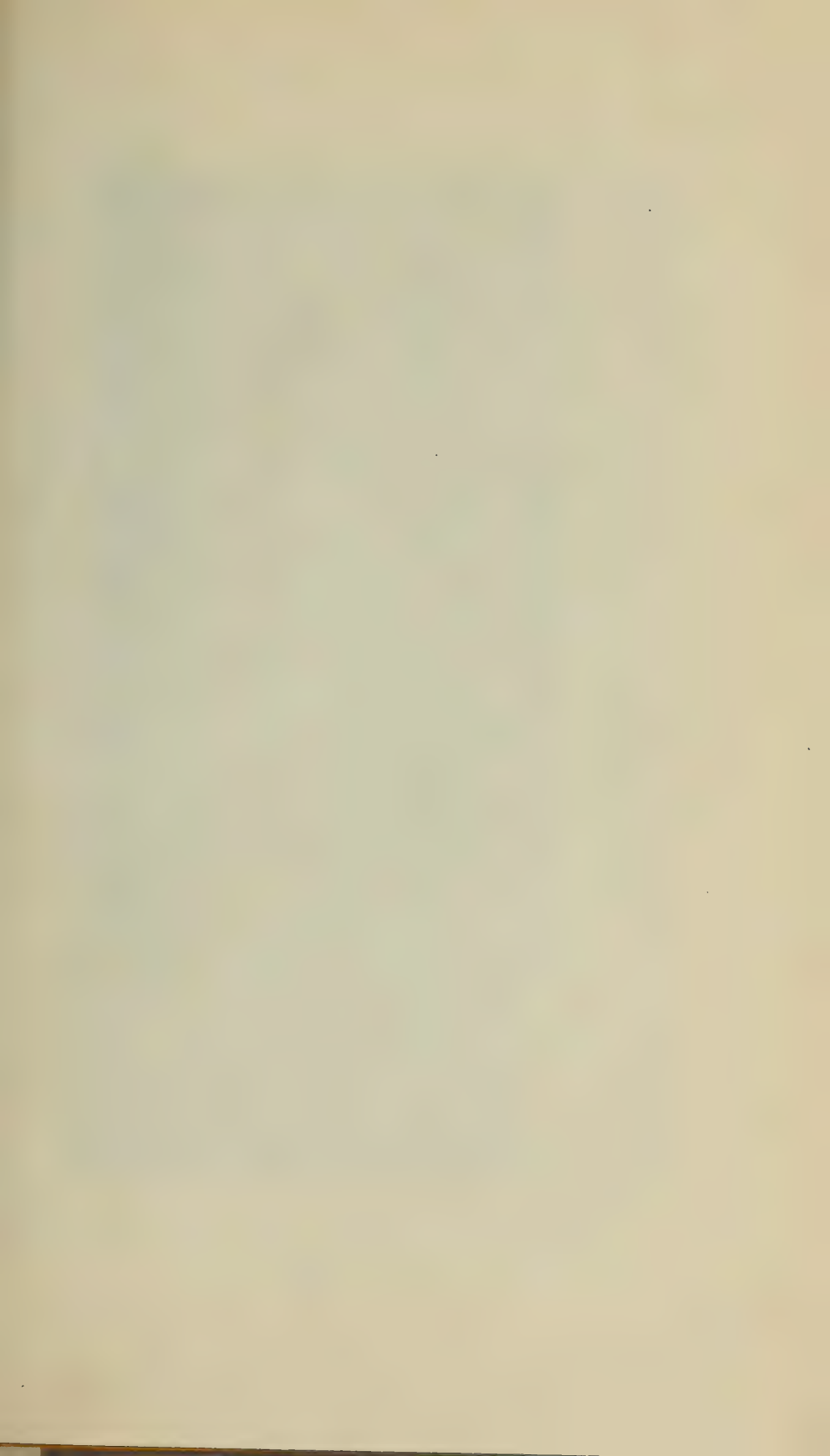
AGED 73 YEARS

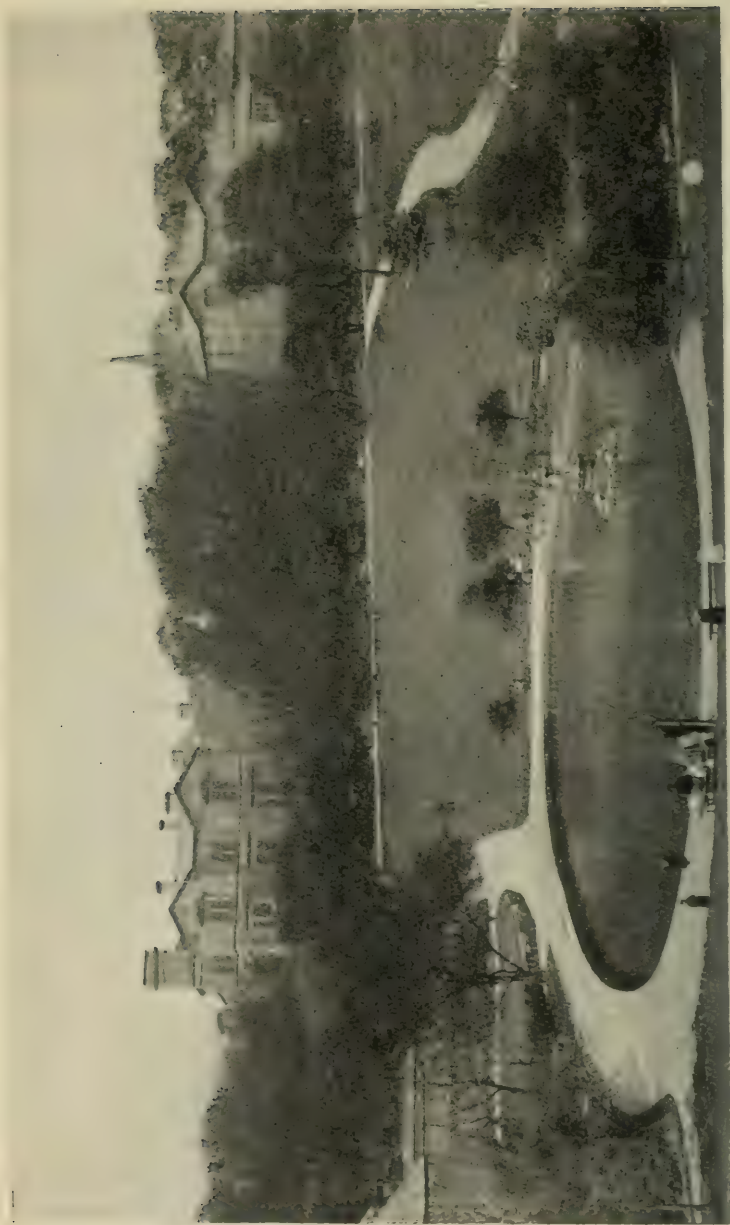
Wreaths had been sent by the following :—

Surgeon-Major and Mrs Mitchell, Mr A. Mitchell, Master Gordon and Miss Marie Mitchell, Miss Mitchell, Mr and Mrs W. H. Mitchell, Mr and

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

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Peel Park, Bradford

Photo by Rock Bros., London

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SIR HENRY MITCHELL

& S. Henry & Co., Ltd. (Manchester), servants of Coley Hall, Mr James Withers (ex-Chief Constable of Bradford), the City Fire Brigade, Messrs W. Haggas & Sons, Mr and Mrs Denison Wilson, Mr and Mrs Lancaster, Sir Clarence and Lady Smith, Mr and Mrs C. L. Atkinson, the choir of St John's Wesleyan Church, Mr and Mrs A. Aykroyd, Mr and Mrs E. Heynemann, Dr and Mrs W. H. Thompson, Mr J. Moser, Mr and Miss Milthorp, Mr H. Clapham, Mr F. Willey, Mr R. Heron, Mr John Hoskings, and Robert Reid, Junr. (London), Mr William Brown (Leytonstone), the Bradford Commercial Travellers' Association, the Cloth-workers' Company, Mr Herbert Hahnels (France), Mr E. de Mazard (France), Mr George Douglas, Messrs William Ecroyd & Sons, Mr Howard Henry, Mr and Mrs de Jersey, Mr H. Sutcliffe Smith (Harrogate), Mr and Mrs Ellis Stafforth, Miss Stafforth, the Beaconsfield Conservative Club, Mr James Haggas, the Bradford Junior Conservative Club, Mr J. Hastings, Mr William Brown, Mr and Mrs E. R. Herrick, Masters and Students of the Technical College, members of Parliament for the City and the Shipley Division, Mr J. Wright (Ingrow), Mr Norman Scott, Mr and Mrs Whittingham, Mr Bernard Cohen, Mrs J. Clapham (Huddersfield), Mr J. Clayton, and Mr and Mrs Lee Walker (Huddersfield).

An impressive memorial service was held at St John's Wesleyan Church on the following Sunday, conducted by the Rev. Frederick W. Macdonald, of London, Secretary of the Wes-

leyan Foreign Missionary Society, and the Rev. Silvester Whitehead, Chairman of the Halifax and Bradford Synod. The relatives of the late Sir Henry Mitchell attended, and there was a large congregation. The Rev. F. W. McDonald delivered an eloquent sermon on the words : ' I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day ; the night cometh when no man can work.' (St John ix. 4). The preacher dwelt upon the universal respect which Sir Henry had earned, and the great public sorrow which his death had aroused, as shown by the large and representative gathering which assembled to follow his remains to the grave, and he pointed to the life and works of Sir Henry as an illustration of the performance of the works alluded to in the text. He went on to emphasize the lesson that each person had a particular duty in life to fulfil, and he said that the sad event of the past week had given a pathetic impressiveness to the fact that the time came when work must cease.—The hymns selected were : *Brief life is here our portion, What are these arrayed in white, and For ever with the Lord*, and the choir sang the anthem, *Happy and Blessed are they*, from Mendelssohn's *St Paul*. The service closed with the playing of the Dead March in *Saul*, by the organist, (Mr J. H. Clough) during which the congregation remained standing.

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

We have given full details of this impressive testimony to Sir Henry Mitchell's worth, as such honours are conceded to so few. But those who have read the preceding chapters will feel that they were deserved. Macarius said of Justin, that there was no vice but he thought it below him, and no virtue which he esteemed not his duty or his ornament. And certainly Sir Henry Mitchell's life was a modern example of whatsoever things make up virtue, and are worthy of praise.

This is an age which over-values money, and his munificent example in giving such large sums to worthy objects should not be without its influence. Like Alcuin, he possessed the world without its possessing him. And he was in a bright succession, however many have abused the world instead of using it. Warham, Archbishop of Canterbury, in Henry VIII's reign, spent £30,000 in one tide of generosity, and when dying, asked his steward what money he had in his hands. £30 was all, and Warham said, 'That is enough to last me to Heaven.' When Usher's father died, he gave up the patrimony which came to him to his younger brother, reserving only enough for college expenses and his beloved books. General Ireton, in Cromwell's time, refused the £2,000 a year the Parliament offered to settle on him, after acting as Deputy in Ireland.

He declared they had many debts which they ought to pay before they made presents, and they should serve the nation instead of being free with public money.

Archbishop Tillotson laid aside one-fifth of his income for gifts, and John Fernley, who established the Lecture which keeps his memory green, one third. And into this honourable list may well come a man whose known givings went beyond £100,000, and who in modern times set himself to

Enjoy the grace to angels given,
And serve the royal heirs of heaven.

He has won a lasting name in Bradford, but his principles were those of Theodosius, as he wrote to Camilla :—

I'd rather in your favour live,
Than in a lasting name.
And much a greater rate would give,
For happiness than fame.

To a large extent he won both, and such men are the salt of the community. Burke said :—
'I am aware that the age is not what we all wish, but I am sure that the only means to check its degeneracy, is heartily to concur in whatever is best in our time.' Sir Henry did this, with an emphasis on the heartily.

So let us close by recommending all and sundry to serve their generation by the will of

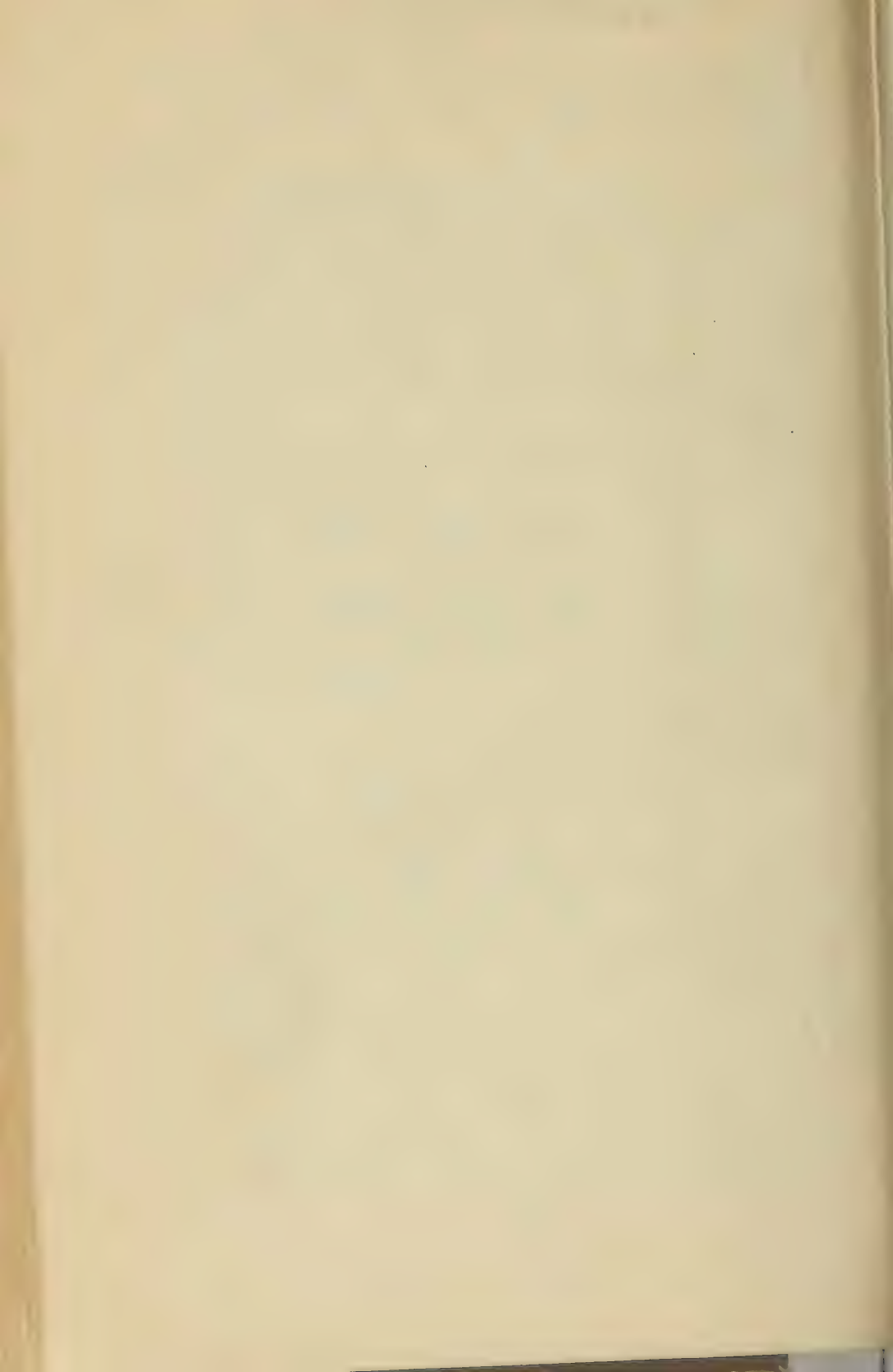
SIR HENRY MITCHELL

God, and not to seek methods of doing it out
of their proper sphere.

My soul was stirred ; I prayed. Let me
Do some great work so purely
To right life's wrongs that I shall know
That I have loved Thee surely.
My lips sent forth their eager cry,
The while my heart beat faster,
'For some great deed to prove my love,
Send me, send me, my master.'

From out the silence came a voice,
Saying, 'If God thou fearest,
Rise up and do, thy whole life through,
The duty that lies nearest.
The friendly word, the kindly deed,
Though small the act in seeming,
Shall in the end unto thy soul
Prove mightier than thy dreaming.

'The cup of water to the faint,
Or rest unto the weary,
The light thou giv'st another's life,
Shall make thine own less dreary.
And boundless realms of faith and love
Will wait for thy possessing ;
Not creeds but deeds, if thou wouldst win
Unto thy soul a blessing.'



APPENDIX

IN addition to those already mentioned as having been present at Sir Henry Mitchell's funeral, we give the list of the Societies, Clubs, and public Institutions represented. He took an interest in all these, and in many cases rendered valuable service. Residing for half a century in the same place, taking a prominent part in its affairs nearly all the time, having a full purse at command, and a heart to use it wisely and well, how much can one man do, and how far can his influence extend !

The list of Societies and their representatives is extracted from the *Bradford Observer*.

Bradford Church Institute.—Mr A. Sibson, Mr J. Reddie, Mr W. M. Brooks, and Mr W. H. Good.

Bradford Blind Institute.—Mr W. H. Tate and Mr M. Priestley (Secretary).

Bradford Children's Hospital.—Dr Mossop, Dr Thompson, Mr J. Fattorini, Mr W. Collins, and Mr C. V. Woodcock (Secretary).

St. Catherine's Home for Incurables.—Dr Walter Denby and Mr W. H. Benn (Treasurer).

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

Bradford Eye and Ear Hospital.—Dr J. H. Bell, Dr Kerr, Mr G. B. Stephenson, Mr Joseph Walker, Mr J. Clarke, and Mr C. J. Vint.

Bradford Royal Infirmary.—Dr Miall, Mr W. C. Lupton, the Very Rev. Monsignor Motler, V.G., Mr J. B. Moorhouse, Mr H. Lingard, Mr Mark Dawson, Mr J. E. Fawcett, Mr W. Croft, Mr H. Pickard, and Mr W. Maw (Secretary).

Bradford Joint Hospital Fund Employees' Committee.—Mr W. Sheard (Chairman) and Mr E. Whitley and Mr G. Blakey (Vice-Chairmen), Mr Herbert Gill and Mr A. Wilson (Hon. Secs.), Mr J. P. Haste (Treasurer), Messrs J. Thorley, J. Clark, J. G. Hooley, A. Wilson, A. J. Bramma, B. Denby, S. Atkins, S. Cheetham, and W. H. Petty.

Bradford Grammar School.—The Rev. W. H. Keeling, Mr H. Behrens, and Mr A. Burrell.

Banks.—Bradford Old Bank: Mr John Brigg, M.P., Mr J. C. Horsfall, Mr James Burnley, Mr Bernard Cohen, directors; and Mr James Gordon, General Manager. The Chairman of the Board of Directors (Mr Alfred Harris), who was unavoidably absent, was represented by Mr Arthur Harris. Bradford Commercial Joint Stock Banking Co., Ltd.: Alderman Jonas Whitley (Chairman), and Mr Thomas Heywood (Manager); Beckett's Bank: Mr J. H. Lincey (Manager); Yorkshire Penny Bank: Mr F. C. Robinson (Manager).

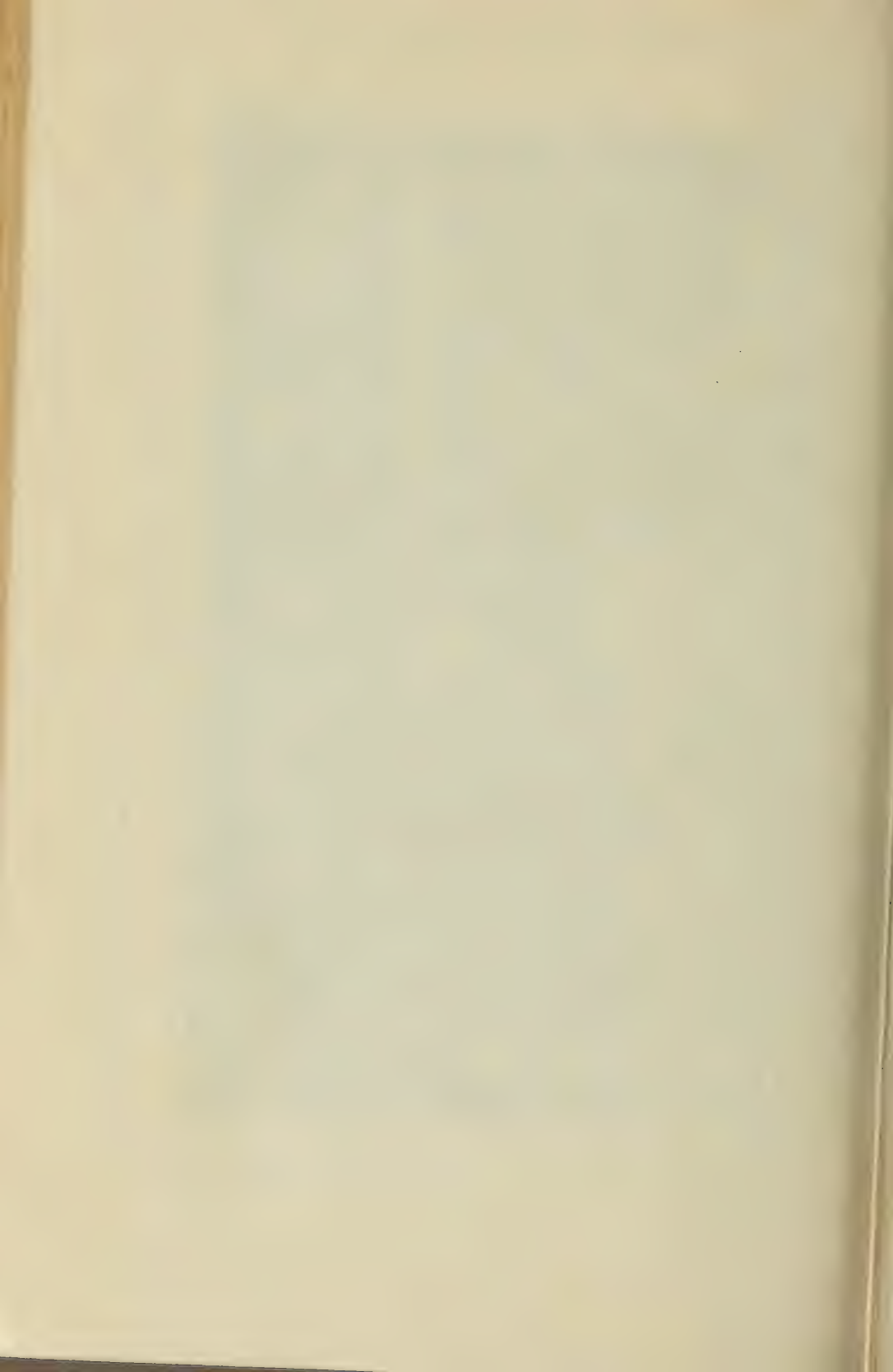
Warehousemen, Clerks', and Drapers' School.—Mr J. A. Clapham, Mr W. Craven, Mr C. E. Bowden, Mr James Firth, Mr J. Rushworth, Mr J. Kitson, Mr G. Hainsworth, and Mr J. H. Baxendall.



Manningham Park

Photo by Rock Bros., London

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SIR HENRY MITCHELL

Bradford Exchange Co.—Mr J. Walker and Mr A. H. Swaine.

Equitable Fire and Accident Insurance Office.—Mr J. Ambler, Mr J. Robertshaw, and Mr W. Miller.

Bradford Commercial Travellers' Association.—Mr J. E. Jackson (Chairman), Mr James Tilley (Vice-Chairman), Mr G. P. Rishworth (Secretary), and Messrs J. F. Abraham, T. D. Cummins, Z. Crossley, J. Mitton, J. Miller, J. Robinson, W. A. Wadsworth, and C. W. Thackeray. The members wore crepe on their badges, Sir Henry having been the first President of the Association.

Independent Order of Oddfellows.—M. U., Bradford District: Bros. John Leach, Prov. G.M., Ellis W. Tordoff, Thomas Craven, S. Clough, J. Haley, W. Leach, B. T. Copley, W. Haigh, H. Dixon, W. Poole, J. A. Fuisdale, T. Lomax, R. M. Greenwood, J. Rodley, W. Airey, W. H. Firth, George Webster, C. A. Little, S. Brown, R. McWeeney, S. Weller, and B. Wright.

National Independent Order of Oddfellows, No. 2 District: Bros. Alexander McDonald, G.M., H. Gornall, D.S., W. Lee, and T. Whelen.

Ancient Order of Foresters.—Bros. A. Wood, D.S.C.R., T. Lockwood, A. P. Kaberry, Benj. Waddington, J. Brook, G. W. Goodison, and R. Hanson.

Bradford Sunday Closing Association.—Mr John Feather and Mr James Dean.

Horton Green Young Men's Meeting.—Mr T. L.

BRADFORD'S FIRST FREEMAN

Woodhouse (Treasurer), Mr E. N. Balmforth (Secretary), Messrs B. Busfield, R. T. Dewhirst, G. A. Fisher, G. W. Lumb, W. Mitchell, H. Newell, F. P. Plunkett, F. Schofield, and J. Whaley.

Yorkshire United Independent College.—The Rev. Dr Duff and the Rev. Prof. Shearer.

Charity Organisation Society.—Mr G. Speight and Mr John Priestman.

Shipley Ambulance Corps.—Mr H. Ablewhite, Mr T. Barnes, Mr C. Stott, Mr H. Bowers, Mr C. Wilcock, Mr J. D. Busfield, and Mr J. Slingsby.

Overseers of the Poor.—Mr R. Poole, Mr W. Rogers, Mr C. W. Hudson, Mr J. Wilkinson (Assistant Overseers).

Bradford Junior Conservative Club.—Messrs G. A. Mitchell (Chairman), T. H. Storey, H. M. Trotter, W. H. Barker, J. Barron, and W. I. Crabtree.

Bradford Liberal Unionist Association.—Sir Theo. Peel, Bart., and Messrs Edward Elliott, J. H. Robinson, James Riley, and William Firth.

Shipley Division Unionist Association.—Messrs Joseph Bower, Henry Kellett, W. Hussey, and G. W. Halliday (Agent).

Beaconsfield Conservative Club.—Messrs H. Stratford (Chairman), J. T. Telford (Vice-Chairman), John Clifford, A. Hartley, John Triffit, and John Ingham.

West Bowling Conservative Club.—Mr John Robinson.

East Bowling Conservative Club.—Mr Alfred Dowson.

SIR HENRY MITCHELL

East Bradford Primrose League.—Messrs John Pitts (Hon. Sec.), W. Cockroft (Treasurer), J. Wilson and H. Wilson.

East Ward Conservative Club.—Dr Gray and Messrs W. Shaw, C. Abbott, M. Beale, J. F. Bowser, F. Fletcher, E. Clayton, P. Jennings, H. White, F. Deighton, H. Jennings, and H. Dawson.

Bradford Mechanics' Institute.—The Rev. Dr Fraser, Mr W. T. Kirk, Mr J. R. Lawson, Mr J. H. Neal, Mr J. G. Best, Mr W. C. Cutting, Mr G. Oldfield, Mr H. Gaskarth, Mr G. B. Cole, Mr J. Holbrey, Mr W. Hopkinson, Mr C. White, Mr William Stansfield, Mr John Sowden, and Mr G. Swaine.

United Kingdom Alliance.—Mr Henry Hibbert.

Bradford Sunday Closing Association.—Rev. G. W. Kendall.

Bradford Coffee Tavern Co., Ltd.—Mr G. I. Sands and Mr J. Bentley (Secretary).

Bradford Gordon Boys' Brigade.—Mr S. Miller (Chairman), Mr F. G. Peacock (Hon. Sec.), and twelve boys under Sergt. Duffy.

Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants.—Mr C. E. Simpson, Mr A. Binns, and Mr W. Froggatt.

Managers' and Overlookers' Friendly Society.—Mr B. Laycock and Mr McWeeny.

Bradford Cinderella Club.—Mr G. Bridges, Mr W. Lodge, Mr W. White, and Mr C. Moore.

Bradford Postman's Band.—Messrs F. Blake, T. Elston, F. Smith, C. Fethony, W. E. Andrew, J. W. S. Ashton, and J. W. Cottam.

Sir Owen Roberts, Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, who had intended to be present, sent a telegram expressing regret that he was unable to leave London, and a similar message was received from Sir Edward Ripley, Bart., whilst Sir Frederick Ripley, Bart., who was detained through an important engagement, was represented by his eldest son, Mr Hugh Ripley.

The following sent carriages:—

The Mayor, Dr Appleyard, Mrs Alfred Sharp (Bingley), Mr Joseph Whittingham, Mr James Gordon, Mr Charles E. Sugden (Bingley), Sir Frederick Ripley, Bart., Mr James Roberts, Mr W. E. B. Priestley, Mr W. E. Aykroyd, Mr J. Cawthra, Mr William Grandage, Mr John Maddocks, Mr John Ambler, Mr Alfred Wallace (Clayton), Colonel Hirst, C.B., Mr Whitehead (Briggella House), Mrs Abraham Mitchell, Mr John Rycroft, Mr David Wade, Mr James Hill, Mr William Wade, Mr Joseph Craven, Dr Denby, Miss Shields, Mr J. B. Moorhouse, Mr H. Behrens, Dr Lodge, Mr Tom Mitchell, Mr John Rhodes (Baildon), Mr G. H. Hodgson, Mr W. Firth, Mr I. Lancaster, Mr W. Foster (Denholme), Mr Albert Illingworth, Dr Gilchrist Burnie, Mr J. Sharp (Wyke), Dr Mossop, Ald. F. Priestman, Mrs Henry Illingworth, Mr William Oddy, Mr S. A. Musgrave, Mr J. E. Haggas (Keighley), Mr Jacob Moser, Mr T. Craig, Mr George Averdieck, Ald. Jonas Whitley, Mr Herbert Haggas (Keighley), and Mr A. L. Haggas (Oakworth).

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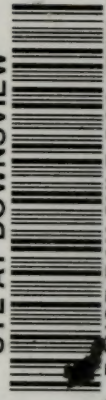
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